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EPS to offer before, after school care

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

EDWARDSBURG — Edwardsburg Public Schools has announced it will be partnering with Camp Fire River Bend, Inc., to offer before and after school care to students in grades K-5 during the 2024-2025 school year.

Care would be offered at the Intermediate School from 7:15 a.m. to start time in the mornings and from the end of school until 6 p.m. in the afternoons. Second and third grade students will ride the shuttle bus to and from Eagle Lake Elementary.

Camp Fire River Bend CEO Dr. Amber Grundy, an Eddie parent herself, presented to the Board of Education twice this year providing it with an overview of before and after school care and what it could look like in EPS, based on what her organization has provided to other schools.

At the July board meeting, Edwardsburg Public School's Board of Education voted to support the addition of before and after school care provided by Camp Fire River Bend for the 2024-2025 school year.

"After hearing the overwhelming feedback during our strategic planning discussions that this was an immediate need, providing this service to our Eddie families became a priority," said Superintendent Dr. Courtney Szucs. "We have heard from numerous families about the necessity for reliable before and after school care, but to make sure we are staffed appropriately and have enough space, we are starting small with an initial 36 slots, contingent upon licensing."

Dr. Szucs said the goal is to expand the program over the next few years to accommodate more families.

"There are many parents whose work schedules do not align with our elementary start and end times," she said. "Offering this program will provide our Eddie families with a much needed resource."

Registration information will be provided soon. Leaderpub.com will be updated as more information becomes available.

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
15 members of the Team Love Track club team qualified for the 2024 AAU Junior Olympic Games, which will take place July 29 to August 3 at North Carolina A&T in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Local athletes raising money for AAU Junior Olympics

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — A local AAU track team is asking the community for help to get to the 2024 Junior Olympics in Greensboro, North Carolina.

A GoFundMe "Fuel the Journey for Team Love Track to the Olympics" has been set up to help members of Team Love Track compete in the 2024 AAU Junior Olympic Games, which will take place July 29 to August 3 at North Carolina A&T in Greensboro, North Carolina. As of Thursday afternoon, $375 has been raised toward a $5,000 goal. 15 members of the Team Love Track club team qualified for the 2024 AAU Junior Olympic Games, which will take place July 29 to August 3 at North Carolina A&T in Greensboro, North Carolina. The games will feature 19,000 athletes and an estimated 40,000 spectators competing in a variety of sports, including track and field, swimming, martial arts, and more.

The names of qualifiers and the events qualified for are as follows:

17-18 boys 110-meter hurdles – Aydan Mccary

8-and-under boys 400-meter relay – Caleb Patterson, Carter Brann, Olen Simmons, Andrew Love

9 boys long jump – Chad Patterson, Danyel Nelson Jr.

14 boys 800-meter run – John Brickley

14 boys 1500-meter run – John Brickley

14 girls long jump – Addison Kessler

13 girls 100-meter dash – Alani Scott

14 girls 200-meter hurdles – Gianna Ball

12 girls 400-meter dash – Haylei Patterson

12 girls 80-meter hurdles – Patterson

14 girls high jump – Loryana Harris

14 girls 100-meter hurdles – Madison Kessler

14 girls 100-meter dash – Trenyse Mcginnis

Founded three years ago by former Niles track standout Andre Love, the program

See OLYMPICS, Page A8

THISTLEDOWN & ROW

Downtown Buchanan building transforming into restaurant, bar

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BUCHANAN — A collaboration between local business entities is giving the historic Redden Building a new lease on life in downtown Buchanan.

Michael and Elaine Rowland of Rowland Property Group and Ann Tuite of Buchanan Craft LLC – parent company of River Saint Joe – have been hard at work transforming 103 Days Ave. into Thistledown & Row, a restaurant and cidery/winery coming to downtown Buchanan this fall.

Thistledown & Row will feature a sitdown restaurant on the north side of the space (Thistledown) and a cider/wine bar on the south side of the space (Row), as well as a walk-up/takeout window designed with the social district in mind. The restaurant is being designed by local designer Sarah Butus and the space plans to host live music.

"We want to be able to support local music for sure and bring that to the community, so we're really excited about that too," Elaine said. "We're working on coming up with a good menu that everyone can enjoy and we're just excited to bring an additional option to not only Buchanan but the surrounding area, too."

The name of the restaurant comes from the native thistle found in southwest Michigan poet Benjamin Franklin King mentions in the opening stanza of his poem, "The River St. Joe." The poem was also the inspiration for the name of Buchanan Craft's other project, River Saint Joe Brewery and describes the

See ROW, Page A8

"We're working on coming up with a good menu that everyone can enjoy and we're just excited to bring an additional option to not only Buchanan but the surrounding area, too."
— Elaine Rowland

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
The restaurant space right before the floors were installed.

Niles Rite Aid to close

STAFF REPORT

NILES — The bankruptcy of Rite Aid Corp. is prompting the closure of stores across the country and southwest Michigan is no exception.

The Rite Aid located at 11 S. 11th St., Niles, will be closing this summer – the pharmacy on Thursday, July 18 and the retail floor Sunday, Aug. 25. Prescriptions will be transferred to Walgreens. The store is currently hosting a going out of business sale with items marked from 10 percent to 30 percent off.

The drugstore chain filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last year and has closed hundreds of stores nationwide since the filing.

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

OBITUARIES

Sharon Hill
Jonathan Schaffert
Sabrina Payne
George W. Michael
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Earl Nimtz
Debra Wood
Florence Williams
Eugene Frank Biek
Donald Allen Welch, Sr.
Martha Cox
David Bainbridge
Brian Flick
Linda L. Rockwell
Charles M. Lindley Sr.
Rommel J. Nickert

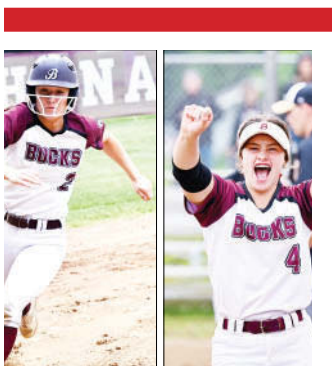
A6

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

"If an ex-president can get shot, how is anyone really safe in this country?"

A2



All-State
Local players, team receive academic honors

B1

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FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call Frankly at (269) 687-7702 or email scott.novak@leaderpub.com

"Will employees consider lawsuits against employers that require computers on their job? The fear of EMF radiation is perhaps going to be a factor for future health problems. One site warns users to not put their laptop on their lap. I would rather not take a chance. I search for jobs that require no computer use."

"Calling all Democrats pediphiles is pretty sickening, especially coming out of the mouth of a member of the United States House of Representatives."

"The number one cause of death of children living in the US is gun violence. And, some people turn a blind eye to this. How can we Americans not address this problem head on?"

"I think Biden and Trump should make a commercial together to help cool down the temperature from this election."

"If an ex-president can get shot, how is anyone really safe in this country?"

"Americans are supposed to be opinionated, that's what makes this a great country. We don't have to be stifled, but we do need to be civil to one another. Even boxers fist bump before they fight."

"I go straight from the high heating bill to the high air conditioning bill in a flash. I get no relief."

"Why do many big screen movies only play one night at the theatre nowadays?"

"Thank you to the brave workers who helped remove the road debris from the recent storm. Sometimes we forget to thank you for the important work you folks do to help keep things moving."

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	30% Chance of Storms	50% Chance of Storms	50% Chance of Rain
77° 58°	78° 60°	80° 63°	81° 64°	81° 64°	80° 63°

VANDALIA HOSTS ANNUAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD DAYS

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

VANDALIA — Cass County's history and connection to the Underground Railroad was on full display for visitors and community members alike last weekend.

The Village of Vandalia and the Underground Railroad Society of Cass County hosted the annual Underground Railroad Days Saturday and Sunday, July 13 and 14 with activities centered around Milo Barnes Park on M-60 in Vandalia.

Hundreds of people visited the event that celebrates the legacy of the Underground Railroad in Cass County, particularly the area around Vandalia – Calvin, Porter and Penn Townships – known as "Young's Prairie" at the time. The UGRR existed in this area from 1830 to 1860 and it is estimated about 1,500 fugitive slaves passed through this area on their way to Canada. Many stayed for a time and worked on Quaker farms. They were targets of the infamous 1847 Kentucky Slave Raid.

"I am very proud," said URSCC Secretary Nancy Neff. "It says a lot about our people, our community and the way they welcomed the freedom seekers. They were welcome to stay here, which many of them did and their descendants are still here. They were also welcome to stay, rest, earn some money and move on if they wished."

The Village of Vandalia sponsored arts and crafts booths and the URSCC sponsored guided tours of Kentucky Raid sites and tours of UGRR sites James E. Bonine House, the Bonine Carriage House and the Stephen Bogue House. The 102nd US Colored Troops presented a "living history" encampment on Saturday and the annual car show was also held. New this year was the opening of Brownsville School No. 1, an integrated one-room schoolhouse believed to have opened in the early 1840s that was recently acquired by URSCC. The schoolhouse is thought to be one of the longest-running integrated schoolhouses in the country, having served students from the early 1840s to 1956, when Brownsville students were consolidated into Cassopolis Public Schools.

Rather than restore the school as originally planned, URSCC will preserve the c. 1840 original building. It will repair the foundation, roof, floor, windows and anything else that needs repair, but will keep the original structure as is, as much as possible. Those wishing to donate can do so on www.brownsvilleschool.org or www.urscc.org or send a check to URSCC PO Box 124, Vandalia, MI 49095.

For Neff, a Vandalia resident whose father grew up in Vandalia and played in the Bonine House as a child, Underground Railroad Days is near and dear to her heart.

"It makes me happy that we can share the history, because until we got the Bonine House and really started getting in and researching, I don't think a lot of people in the area knew about it; it was new to everybody. Just sharing the history. I love sharing the history with everybody and hearing people share their history back with me. I learn as much from the people that come and talk to me and want to take tours."

The URSCC's 20-site self guided driving tour maps can be obtained in Milo Barnes Park in Vandalia, or online. More information on Underground Railroad Days, the role Cass County played in the UGRR and how to get involved can be found on www.urscc.org.

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
The Village of Vandalia and the Underground Railroad Society of Cass County hosted the annual Underground Railroad Days Saturday and Sunday, July 13 and 14.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN TABERNACLE:

Please take notice that a special meeting of the members of the above named church will be held at the Niles Public Library in the Board Room in the city of Niles, MI on the 29th day of July, AD 2024 at the hour of 6:00 in the p.m. for the purpose of considering action on the removal of Morton Trent Avance as pastor due violation of By-Law 19 and dereliction of pastoral duties.

Dated July 10, 2024.

President, Charles Fouché
Vice President and Director, Pearcy Tobar, Sr.
Secretary, Sherry Barnes Pollack
Treasurer, William Lawson
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Brandywine Jazz Collective to host Jazz Cafe fundraiser July 27

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP — A local high school band is putting on a show to march in style.

The Brandywine Jazz Collective is hosting a Jazz Cafe at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 27 at the Brandywine Athletic Community Center, 1700 Bell Rd. Admission is $10 with proceeds going toward the purchase of a new marching banner. Jen's Sweet Treats, beverages and more will be available for purchase.

According to Band Director Ruth Livengood, the band's current banner is more than 30 years old.

"It's in really rough shape," she said. "It's the first thing that the community sees from the band during parades and it's at least 30 years old."

After the Memorial Day Parade, Livengood brainstormed nontraditional ways to raise funds for a new banner, which can cost more than $500. After speaking with colleagues who have organized jazz cafes, she decided to give it a shot.

The jazz collective will feature current and past jazz band students as well as friends of the band. Livengood encourages community members to attend a night of music for a worthy cause.

"We're just really lucky that we have a lot of talent between our students and our guest artists and our alumni," she said. "It's for a really worthy cause."

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Honor Credit Union of Dowagiac, 56337 M-51 S., presented Ed's Open-Header Cruise coordinator Curt Rohdy and Cass County Cancer Services with a $1,000 check Tuesday in support of the annual summer event. From Left: Curt Rohdy, Norma Greenman, Janie Reifenberg, Jim Kazlauskas.

Annual Ed's Open Header Cruise set for July 25

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — One of Dowagiac's most popular events is set to descend upon downtown for a good cause next week.

The seventh annual Ed's Open Header Cruise will take place at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, July 25 to benefit the Cass County Cancer Service, a nonprofit, volunteer-led organization that aids cancer patients in gas cards for patients, helping with paying utility bills or even just emotional support. The service also provides hospital equipment including beds, wheelchairs, walkers and more. The only qualification for cancer patients to receive assistance from the service is they must live in Cass County.

Participants in the Open Header Cruise will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Thomas J. Mosier Waterwell Drilling, 21867 M-60 East, Cassopolis. A police escort will leave from Cassopolis at 6:40 to lead the cruise into downtown Dowagiac, where participants can gather at the Dowagiac James E. Snow Professional Building for a cook-out. The entry fee for motor vehicles looking to participate in the procession is $20, with vehicles of all makes and models welcome.

The annual event is named in honor of Ed Kazlauskas, who along with event organizer Curt Rohdy helped organize the Dowagiac Car Show downtown for 16 years. When the duo passed the organizing to someone else, they discussed planning an open header cruise to raise money for a local charity.

Before plans ever came together, Kazlauskas was diagnosed with cancer and passed away at the age of 60, on Feb. 13, 2016.

Rohdy has since kept their dream alive and plans the open header cruise in Kazlauskas' honor.

"I think it's a good thing," Rohdy said. "If this money raised for the Cass County Cancer Service helps one person, that's a good thing. I'm not looking for praise or anything, it's just something where if it helps the community, it's a good thing."

Honor Credit Union of Dowagiac, 56337 M-51 S., presented Rohdy and Cass County Cancer Services with a $1,000 check Tuesday in support of the annual summer event. According to HCU Community Development Officer Janie Reifenberg, CCCS was the perfect organization to partner with because 100 percent of the funds they receive from donors goes directly to the community.

To date, more than $44,000 in total funds have been raised for CCCS via Ed's Open Header.

"Everybody's been touched by somebody who's

See CRUISE, Page A4

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

July 26
High school reunion

The Niles High School Class of 1969 is celebrating its 55 year reunion with a Friday evening gathering July 26 and reunion Saturday evening July 27, 2024. Invitations with further details will be emailed or mailed in May. Classmates can submit or update their email and mailing addresses to the reunion committee at nilesclass69@aol.com.

October 13
Newton House Festival

The Cass County Historical Society is excited to announce its annual Fall Festival, taking place from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13. The event will be held at the Newton House, located at 20689 Marcellus Highway, Decatur, MI, on the historical grounds. There will be guided tours of the Newton House, live music and a silent auction. Local artisans will be showcasing their talents, and Civil War reenactors will be on site with a cannon firing demonstration.

The event will also feature complimentary cider, popcorn, apples, cookies and a variety of activities including hayrides, a petting zoo and kids yard games. A kids costume contest will also be held and new this year is its first annual kids pie-eating contest.

Dowagiac native and esteemed author Ron Kirkwood will be in attendance for readings and autographs of his new book on Gettysburg's George Spangler Farm.

For more information, visit the Facebook pages for either the Newton House or the Cass County Historical Society.

Send calendar items to the newsroom at news@leaderpub.com, or drop them off at the office, 217 N. Fourth St., Niles.

PET OF THE WEEK

Described as "just precious" by her foster mom, **Navia** is more than just pretty. The young female is a snuggly companion who loves her stuffed toys and splashing in the water. She is playful, very dog-friendly and can brighten your days. Nadia is crate-trained, housetrained, spayed, chipped and current on shots. Contact the Berrien County Animal Shelter at (269) 927-5648.

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SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Police seize 21 guns, ammunition in Niles traffic stop

STAFF REPORT

NILES — A 40-year-old man is facing felony firearms charges after authorities found 21 guns and ammunition during a traffic stop in Niles.

According to the Cass County Drug Enforcement Team, detectives received information Monday about an individual who was a known felon and was in possession of several firearms and possibly selling narcotics. The tip stated that the firearms were being held in a travel trailer in Howard Township that detectives were able to locate. With the assistance of Pokagon Tribal Police, a traffic stop was made on the vehicle and travel trailer in the 2500 block of Lake Shore Drive in Niles. During the investigation, detectives observed through a bedroom window several firearms laying on the bed.

The 40 year old male was arrested for felony possession of firearms. A search warrant was executed on the travel trailer. Inside, detectives located 21 firearms and a large quantity of ammunition. After further investigation it was learned that two of the firearms were stolen.

The suspect was lodged at the Cass County Jail on firearms charges and his name is being withheld pending arraignment. Detectives were assisted on scene by the Pokagon Tribal Police. Anyone with information regarding this case or any other criminal activity is asked to call the Cass County Sheriff's Office Tip Line at 1-800-462-9328 or contact the Sheriff's Office through the Anonymous Web Tip Line at www.ccso.info.

Red Shoe Realty to host grand opening July 24

COMMUNITY REPORT

NILES — Red Shoe Realty is thrilled to announce the grand opening of its new office at 922 S 11th St., Niles.

The event will be held in an open house style from 4 to 7 p.m. on July 24, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for 4:30 p.m. Parking will be available at the following businesses/parking lots: Wellnow, Goodwill, and Advance Auto. Carpooling is encouraged.

With more than 30 years of combined experience in the real estate industry across Southwest Michigan, Red Shoe Realty aims to assist clients in buying, selling, or investing in properties.

"I am thankful to have achieved this milestone of opening my own brokerage and am honored to continue serving the Niles community," said owner Jen Inman.

Guests are invited to food, refreshments, a tour of the new office and an opportunity to meet the team of professionals at Red Shoe Realty. Also on hand will be State Representative Brad Paquette.

Visit www.redshoerealty1.com to learn more about services.

County looking to expand dispatch capabilities

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

ST. JOSEPH — A new tool could be coming soon to assist area law enforcement officers and first responders. Berrien County Commissioners heard a presentation Thursday about work being done to expand computer aided dispatch abilities.

Berrien County Administrator Brian Dissette and Berrien County 9-1-1 Dispatch Director Caitlin Sampsell told county commissioners that officials are currently looking at expanding the dispatch capabilities at both the county and local levels including how much it could cost.

Dissette said the county wants to make sure whatever is proposed to be sustainable in terms of costs and services. He noted that he's aware that county commissioners have gotten calls on the subject from members of the public, fire departments and emergency services.

Sampsell said the county has the opportunity to extend computer assisted dispatch services out to more first responders in the field. She demonstrated the types of information that could be made available to first responders if the new effort is pursued.

For example, the dispatch screen at the Berrien County and Niles dispatch centers shows the call intake information, what's pending and where units are dispatched. There is also a call for service screen where all the data collected is entered.

She said that a new CAD mobile/mobility committee has been formed with representatives from 9-1-1 and county information support, police departments, fire departments and County Commissioner Dave Vollrath. They're going to determine infrastructure needs, costs and other questions.

She noted that the county serves 50 different agencies, including three emergency medical services, 20 police departments and 25 fire departments.

"We've been wanting to expand opportunity for field responders to have more access to computer assisted dispatch," she said. "... This gives responders greater situational awareness so they can provide better assistance to each other. What we're really excited about is that first responders will have the ability to see all the notes about what has been called in."

Sampsell said the goal is to provide responders in the field to have access to what dispatchers see on their screens on their own laptops and tablets. First responders would be able to see things like lists of departments and officers on the scene and maps of the overall area as well as notifications and pictures.

She said the Berrien County Sheriff's Department, the Niles Police Department and the Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service already have access to the mobile computer assisted dispatch and the new committee wants to see how much it would cost to get it to other departments. It's been estimated that 500 new devices would be needed.

Sampsell said the committee is working to get a demonstration set up for some time in August for local law enforcement and other first responder agencies to learn more about the available products. She said the committee wants to get a firmer idea of what the costs would be and who would pay for the new laptops and tablets.

Thursday's county board meeting also featured an update on the Silver Beach County Park playground project. County Parks Director Jill Adams said fundraising is continuing with 89 percent of the needed $1.25 million raised. She said the contract has been awarded for the project to BG Construction of Buchanan for just over $1 million.

In action, county commissioners approved agreements and grants for the Berrien County Health Department and accepted the 2024-25 state grant for the county's public defender office.

Niles man gets jail time for carrying concealed weapon

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — Four area residents were sentenced Monday in Berrien County Trial Court on a variety of charges.

Two people were sentenced on weapon charges.

Miltroka

Jason Robert Miltroka, 47, of South Bend, pleaded guilty to attempted carrying a concealed weapon and was sentenced to 10 days in jail with credit for two days served and $258 in fines and costs. His firearm was forfeited.

The incident occurred Jan. 5 when a car he was a passenger in was stopped by police in Bertrand Township. According to statements made in court, he was in Michigan to buy marijuana.

Defense attorney Scott Graham said this was Miltroka's first felony conviction and that his client has a stable residence and a job he hopes to be able to keep. Graham said that Miltroka's previous convictions had been drinking and driving related. He had been drinking in this incident but was not driving.

Miltroka said he didn't realize the difference in laws between Indiana and Michigan when it comes to weapons.

Berrien County Trial Court Judge Jennifer Smith said she appreciated that fact that Miltroka wants to keep his job but that carrying a weapon is a responsibility.

"You said you didn't know the difference in laws regarding weapons," she said. "What struck me is that you did know the difference in laws when it comes to marijuana. You were coming to Michigan to get marijuana because it's illegal to have in Indiana."

"You were coming into Michigan and there were open beers in the car," she added. "Then you used marijuana and alcohol while you were on bond. There was a whole lot more going on than bringing a gun into Michigan."

Gladger Lee Ross, 64, of Niles, pleaded guilty to carrying a concealed weapon and was sentenced to 20 days in jail with credit for one day served and $198 in fines and costs. His firearm was forfeited.

The incident occurred Oct. 28, 2023 in Niles.

Defense attorney Ross Holec said Ross has not been in trouble for many years. "He's learned to become a law abiding citizen since his previous convictions," he said. "He made a mistake here, we ask for fines and costs with no jail."

Ross apologized and said he was embarrassed about his actions.

Judge Smith agreed that Ross hadn't been in trouble for "a significant period" of time. She said however that she was concerned that he had gun that had been stolen out of South Bend and that the gun was loaded with a round in the chamber.

"This was a dangerous situation, you were combative with police," she said. "Frequently, those carrying a gun with a bullet in the chamber don't get just fines and costs."

In other sentencings, two Niles women were sentenced.

Susan Marie Bowker, 52, of Niles, pleaded guilty to use of methamphetamine and resisting and obstructing police and was sentenced to credit for three days served and $553 in fines and costs.

Bowker

The incident occurred March 15 in Niles Township.

Defense attorney Jason Engram said that Bowker recently had her leg amputated and is not using illegal drugs any more. "She's in a wheelchair, she's not going to be fighting anyone and not going to be using illegal drugs," he said.

Bowker apologized for her actions. She said she had been clean from drugs for a few months.

"You said you stopped using drugs in 2022 and then you did it again and got into trouble," Judge Smith said. "You certainly have a track record resisting police. Until you learn not to do that, you're going to continue coming back before the court. You have to stop resisting police, that's the bottom line."

Courtney Alice Nelson, 22, of Niles, pleaded guilty to larceny by false pretenses $200 to $1,000 and use of cocaine and was sentenced to 18 months in probation, 32 days in jail with credit for 24 days served and $788 in fines, costs and restitution.

Nelson

She was also sentenced to concurrent jail terms for two contempt of court charges, for coming to court in June while high on drugs.

The incident occurred July 30 through Aug. 12, 2023 in Niles.

Judge Smith told Nelson that she needs to be ready and willing to do the work to beat her drug addiction.

CRUISE

Continued from page A3

had cancer or is fighting cancer and it's just nice knowing that we're doing something to help," Reifenberg said. "We see a guy who's just a guy that cares about his community, lost his friend and wants to keep the memory of his friend alive. To us, that's a win-win and a no-brainer because that's what we love to do."

The open header cruise will also coincide with the Dowagiac Summer Concert Series, with the band Taste of Texas performing at 7:30 p.m. at the Dowagiac Library Event Pavilion. The Dowagiac Fire Department will be grilling hot dogs and bratwurst for a donation.

"It's kind of a little celebration all on its own because people really look forward to getting there early and then the camaraderie there I think is really spectacular," Reifenberg said. "Everyone's looking at each other's cars, they're visiting, they're talking and there's food."

The Dowagiac Police Department, Cass County Sheriff's Department and the Village of Cassopolis Police Department will support the cruise, according to Rohdy.

True's Towing and Recovery will supply three wreckers and help block traffic. In addition, if someone's car breaks down, True's Towing and Recovery will tow the vehicle home for the owner at no charge.

Reifenberg, Kazlauskas' sister, and Kazlauskas' son, Jim, of Jim D's Body Shop, appreciate what Rohdy and others have done to celebrate his brother's legacy.

"I'm thankful for the community," Jim said. "I like seeing everyone come together for him."

Reifenberg said her mother looks forward to the event every year.

"She'll sit there and just look at the cars coming and she knows it's because of Curt and Eddie," she said. "It just means the world because she feels that love for her son."

Niles Daily Star

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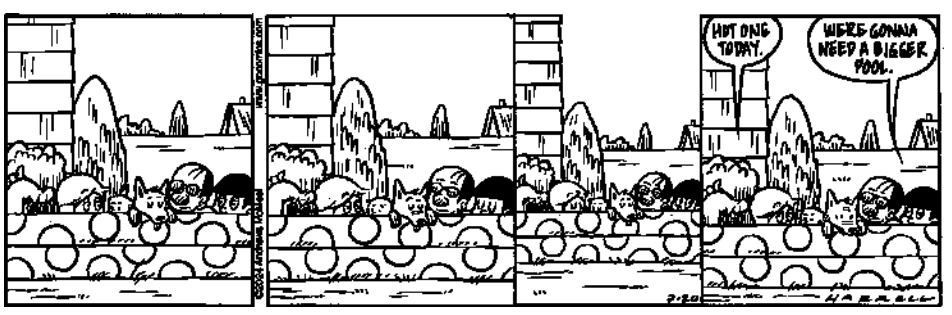
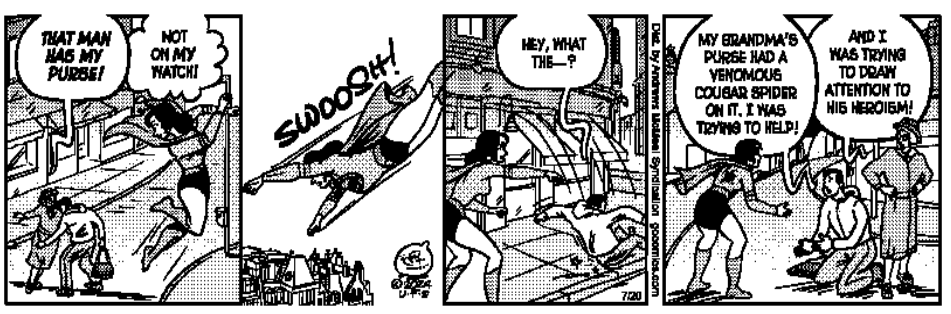
COMICS & PUZZLES

ADAM



ALLEY OOP


THAT MAN HAS MY PURSE!
NOT ON MY WATCH!
SWOOSH!
HEY, WHAT THE—?
MY GRANDMA'S PURSE HAD A VENOMOUS COUGAR SPIDER ON IT. I WAS TRYING TO HELP!
AND I WAS TRYING TO DRAW ATTENTION TO HIS HEROISM!

ARLO & JANIS

WE'VE BEEN VERY BUSY!
WE'VE BEEN CLEANING, ORGANIZING, THROWING OUT UNNEEDED STUFF!
AND MAYBE YOU SHOULD ROUND UP YOUR THINGS, JUST IN CASE!
HE ASSURED ME, IF MOVERS DO SHOW UP, HIS CAT TOYS WILL BE WAITING!

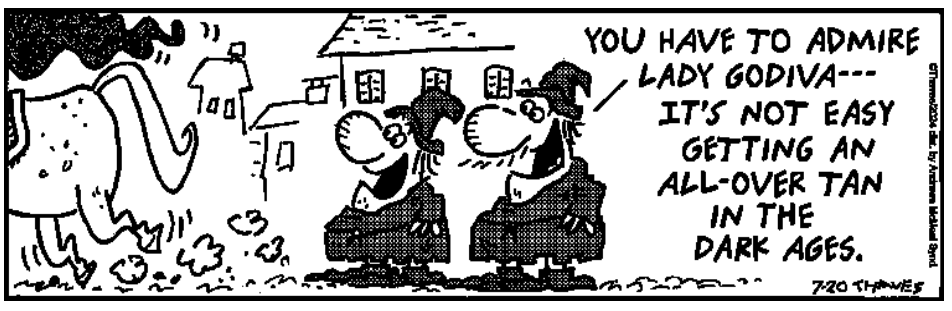
BIG NATE

CHAD! HOW DID KIM LIKE THE GIFT YOU GAVE HER?
OH! FUNNY STORY!
I MESSED UP! IT WASN'T OUR 113-DAY ANNIVERSARY! IT WAS 112 DAYS!
SO OBVIOUSLY I RETURNED THE GIFT TO THE STORE!
OBVIOUSLY.
HA HA! AM I A SPACE CADET OR WHAT?

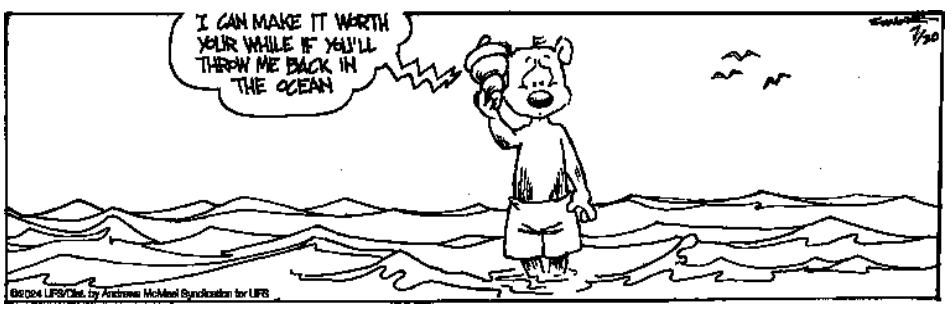
BORN LOSER

LOOK, THIS SAYS IT'S VEGAN FINGERNAIL POLISH!
I KNOW SOME PEOPLE EAT VEGAN FOOD, BUT WHY WOULD THEY MAKE VEGAN FINGERNAIL POLISH?
MAYBE IT'S FOR PEOPLE WHO CHEW THEIR FINGERNAILS?

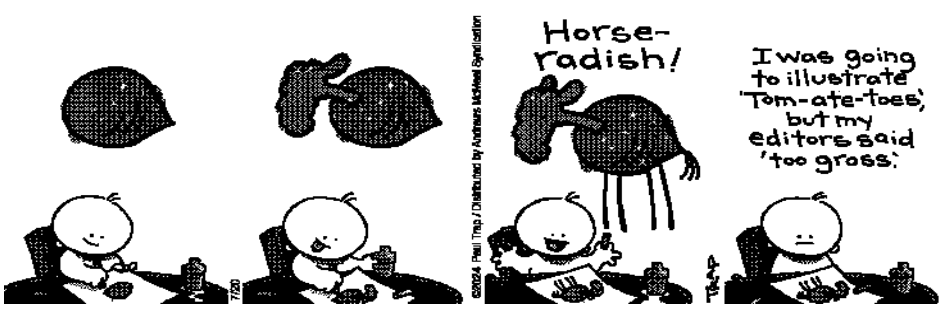
FRANK & ERNEST



GRIZZWELLS



THATABABY



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SODOKU PUZZLE

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

		2						7
		9		8				
5				2	3			
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8		7		4		1		2
	9			7	1		8	
			6	1				3
				3		8		
1						5		

MODERATELY CONFUSED

IT'S HOTTER THAN INSIDE YOUR PARENTS' PLACE AT CHRISTMAS.
STAHLER 7/20
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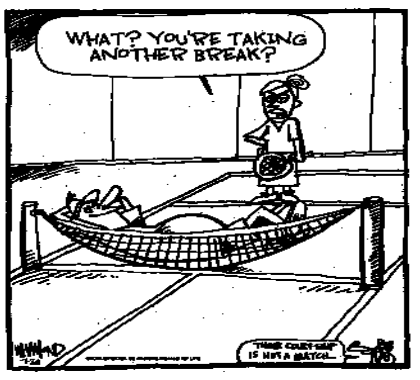
REALITY CHECK

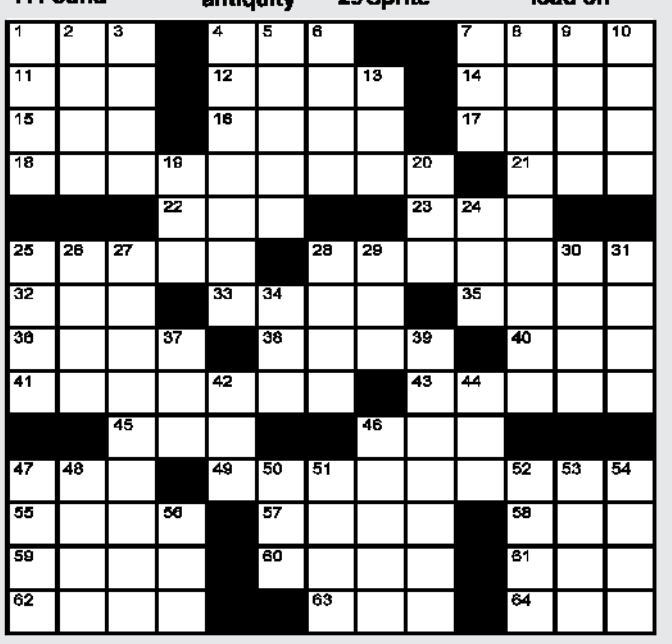


CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Comedian — Leno
4 Hit B'way sign
7 Actress — Thompson
11 The "I"
12 Retained
14 Mournful sound
15 — Claire, WI
16 Nautical word
17 Slithered
18 Pragmatic
21 Isle of —
22 Snapshot, for short
23 Circle portion
25 Meat and dairy shunner
28 Discompose
32 Miscalculate
33 Shore bird
35 Lamb's pen name
36 Eager
38 Mattress option
40 Priestly vestment
41 Found
43 "— to bed ..."
45 Clean-air grp.
46 Tip
47 In favor of
49 Assessed wrongly
55 San — Obispo
57 Wanton look
58 "Now I — me down ..."
59 On the waves
60 Shoestring
61 Sporty truck
62 Compass point
63 Bygone Ford
64 Curvy letter

DOWN
1 Military wheels
2 Kanten
3 "I Never Promised — — Rose Garden"
4 Winter fun
5 Object from antiquity
6 Energy cartel
7 Print measures
8 Biology variety
9 Some is spam
10 Actor — Garcia
13 Oolong
19 Books pro
20 Roman household god
24 GPS suggestion
25 Calf meat
26 Therefore
27 Market offerings
28 Trudge
29 Sprite
30 Small brook
31 Infant
34 Take advantage of
37 Opening
39 Like some professors
42 Scot's cap
44 Say further
46 Expel
47 Imperfection
48 River in Yorkshire
50 Out sick
51 Make airtight
52 Stickum
53 Sign over a diner
54 Colorants
56 Took a load off

ANSWER ON PAGE 6



7-20

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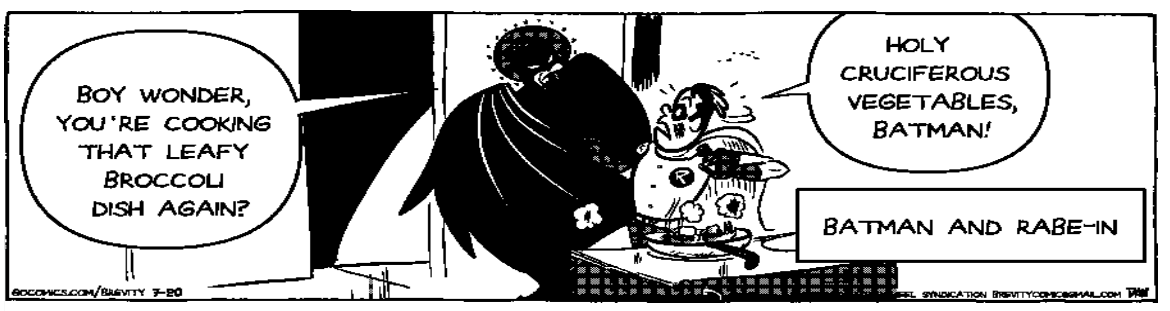
BREVITY



HEART OF THE CITY

MOST OF THE PAGES IN THIS PACKET ARE JUST PICTURES!
I CAN DO THIS IN AN AFTERNOON. I'LL DO IT LATER.
HOP!
THWAK!
AUTHOR'S NOTE: UH-OH, THAT'S NOT GOOD.

DEATH NOTICES

Sharon Hill, 85, of Berrien Springs, passed away Wednesday, July 17, 2024. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, of Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Jonathan Schaffert, 63, of Niles, passed away Monday, July 15, 2024. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, of Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Sabrina Payne, 46, of Dowagiac, passed away Monday, July 15, 2024. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, of Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

George W. Michael, 94, of Buchanan, died Saturday, July 13, 2024. Hoven Funeral Home, Buchanan, MI.

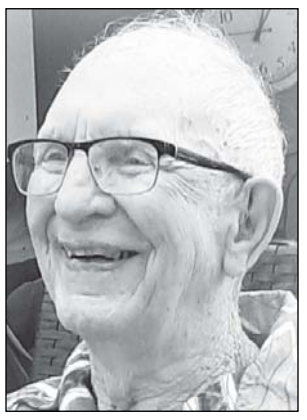
Terry Harvlie, 65, of Buchanan, died Wednesday, July 10, 2024. Arrangements are entrusted to Hoven Funeral Home 414 E. Front Street, Buchanan, MI.

Earl Nimtz, 83, of Niles, passed away Thursday, July 11, 2024 at Corewell Health. Arrangements are pending with and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Debra Wood, 61, passed away on Thursday, July 11, 2024 in Niles, Michiana. Arrangments have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Florence Williams, 96, of Jackson, formerly of Dowagiac passed away July 11, 2024 at her daughter's home. Services are pending with and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home.

OBITUARIES



Eugene Frank Biek

July 29, 1928 – July 5, 2024

Eugene Biek, father of six boys, avid bicyclist, swimmer, tennis player, bridge player and clarinetist, and world traveler with Mary Ellen, his wife of 72 years, died July 5, 2024, at The Vistas Assisted Living facility in Redding, California. He was 95.

Gene was born in Dowagiac, Michigan. His father, Frank, died when Gene was just 5, shortly after his sister Evelyn was born. Their mother, Elizabeth, went to work as a bookkeeper for the city, and with the help of her extended family, raised Gene and Evelyn during the difficult years of the depression. Gene's first job was a paper route in the 8th or 9th grade, delivering on weekends by bicycle in the summer and by sled in the winter; he made 7 cents a week per customer if he could collect what was owed. In high school, he also worked at Lyles Dairy, starting at 40 cents/hour as a cleaner. He could eat and drink all he wanted, and as a young lad grew 6 inches his first year on the job. He eventually drove a delivery truck taking ice cream to nearby stores; his buddy drove a bakery truck and they would sometimes meet and "share."

As a child, Gene started a stamp collection, which grew with the help of stamps from the Biek Manufacturing Company, his uncles' (Bill and Mike) bait and bobber business. He also collected discarded stamps from other businesses in town, which he continued actively until he noticed in high school that girls might be more interesting.

Gene met the love of his life, Mary Ellen Casey, in his senior year at Central High School in Dowagiac, Michigan. He asked Mary Ellen to go with him to Senior Skip Day; they clicked and dated that summer before he left for MIT at age 17. After Gene graduated from MIT with a degree in chemical engineering, they were married in Dowagiac on October 6, 1950.

After their marriage, they first lived in Chicago where Gene worked in the Technical Department of Allied Chemical and Dye Company. After their first son, David, was born in 1952 they decided to leave Chicago for Niagara, Wisconsin, where Gene worked as a chemical engineer at the Kimberly Clark pulp and paper mill. Sons James, Donald, John, and Robert were born there. In 1962, Gene was transferred to Neenah, Wisconsin, where son Michael was born. Then in 1965, Gene (and several of his colleagues and their families) was transferred to Anderson, California, and the new Kimberly Clark pulp and papermill. They bought a house on Alta Mesa Drive in Redding in the Western Ranches subdivision and lived there for 57 years.

Gene and Mary Ellen were accomplished bridge players; they and their friends held almost weekly bridge parties at each other's homes. Gene also played with the Redding Duplicate Bridge Club for many years, eventually obtaining Gold Life Master. He was an original member of the Shasta College Community Band where he played clarinet for many years. Our parents were also fond of pool parties in their backyard. And every summer and on many long weekends, Gene took the boys camping, giving Mary Ellen much needed breaks from raising six boys. He and the boys also enjoyed sailing, skiing, and rock hunting.

In 1981 he started occasional rides to work, a roundtrip distance of 21 miles. He had a fondness for numbers and kept records of miles ridden (186,882 miles by the time he was 89). In 1991, two years after he retired, he started keeping track of the coins he collected along the side of the road; his "road money" totaled $452.51 over the next 26 years, which worked out to 3.3 cents per biking hour, in his words "not a great source of income." Gene had a wonderful sense of humor, including a fondness for penning limericks. He was always able to make Mary Ellen laugh. They both welcomed and treasured their daughters-in-law.

After Gene retired in 1989, he and Mary Ellen travelled the world. They enjoyed touring by bicycle through most of Europe, as well as Mexico, Costa Rica, New Zealand, and many bicycle trips in the United States. They always carried tennis racquets and enjoyed playing after most rides. For their 50th anniversary, the boys sent them to Wimbledon. They also enjoyed stargazing and spent many nights with their telescope in the backyard. Gene began making small batches of fruit wines in 1994 and continued the entire time they lived at their home. Berry and citrus wines were the most popular, and we enjoy them to this day.

Gene's passing was preceded by that of his parents, Elizabeth and Frank Biek. He is survived by his sister, Evelyn Davis, his six sons, seven grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. The family would like to thank the staff at The Vistas and Bristol Hospice for the compassionate care they provided for Gene. There will be a private family remembrance held later.

Martha Cox

Jan. 31, 1929-July 12, 2024

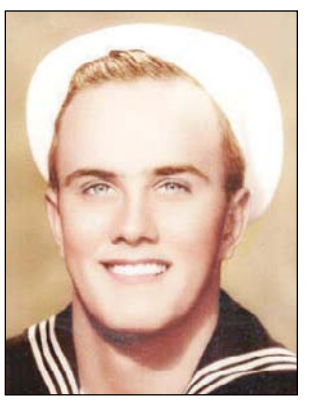
Martha M. Cox, 95, a lifelong resident of Dowagiac, passed away on Friday morning, July 12, 2024, at her Forest Glen Assisted Living in Dowagiac.

She was born on Jan. 31, 1929, in Dowagiac, the daughter of Clare and Marie (Lyons) Gwilt. On June 26, 1953, Martha was united in marriage to Leroy G. Cox. Together they raised 5 sons. After the boys finished school, Martha began working for Dowagiac Public Schools as the superintendent's Administrative Secretary for over 10 years until her retirement. She was an active member of Beta Sigma Phi sorority.

Surviving are her five sons — Kevin (Mary) Cox, Kent (Marjorie) Cox, Kurt (Melissa) Cox, Chris (Kara) Cox and Quintin Cox; eleven grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her husband of 49 years — Leroy Cox; parents; brother — Gordon Gwilt; and two sisters — JoAnn Seiman and Clare Marie Merrild.

A service to celebrate Martha's life will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 18, 2024, at Clark Chapel-Starks Family Funeral Homes, 405 Center St, Dowagiac, where friends may visit with the family from 1 p.m. until the time of services. Interment will follow in Riverside Cemetery, Dowagiac. Memorial contributions in Martha's name may be directed to Caring Circle Hospice or E. Root Fitch Camp. Please visit Martha's personalized webpage to share a memory or leave a condolence to her family at www.clarkch.com



Donald Allen Welch, Sr.

July 29, 1939-July 9, 2024

Donald Allen Welch, Sr., age 84 years of Niles, Michigan; husband, grandfather, brother, honorable veteran, tool & die maker, and comedian died peacefully at 9:42 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at Corewell Health Lakeland Hospital — Niles following an extended illness.

He was born on July 29, 1939 in Niles to John and Helen (Janke) Welch, and was graduated from Niles High School. He enlisted in the United States Navy, and served as a Torpedoman's Mate on the destroyer, USS Brush, deployed to the western Pacific Ocean to escort aircraft carriers. He completed four years of obligation, and was Honorably Discharged. After returning to Niles, he was first employed at the former S&S Supermarket in Buchanan, and then was employed for many years at the former Buchanan Steel. He completed his career in tool & die at the former Niles plant of Delta Industrial Valves. He has lived in Niles all of his life.

Don was a member of the American Legion, and had formerly attended the Edwardsburg Seventh-day Adventist Church. He enjoyed fishing in area lakes, and local deer hunting. He was well-known for his sense of humor, always having a joke to tell, or an amusing response to whatever was happening wherever he was at. His greatest interest was his family.

On Sept. 5, 1964 in Buchanan he married the former Dixie Sue Bailey, who was the love of his life. They celebrated last year the remarkable Fifty-nineth Anniversary of their wedding. They were sadly preceded in death by their 28-year-old son, Donnie, Jr., who died on October 25, 1995.

Surviving family includes his wife, Dixie Welch; a granddaughter, Tamisha Carroll (& Lavonta Henry); great-grandchildren, Heaven Lou Carroll and Yamari Allen Carroll; an "extra" daughter, Donna Knight, adopted by love; and Don's siblings, Karen (& Virjilio) Echevarria of Niles, and Ron Blevins of Niles, and several nieces and nephews.

The family of Don Welch, Sr. will gather privately to honor his life and share memories. Arrangements were completed at the Halbritter-Wickens Funeral Home, 615 East Main Street in Niles. Online condolences and memories may be left at:

www.halbritterwickens.com

Don lived a long, full life, serving his country in the military, and serving his community as a faithful and productive employee. More important was his love for the people in his life. Even after the devastation of the death of a child, he continued to love his grandchild and her family; finding enough love for an extra daughter; and above all, his love for Dixie.

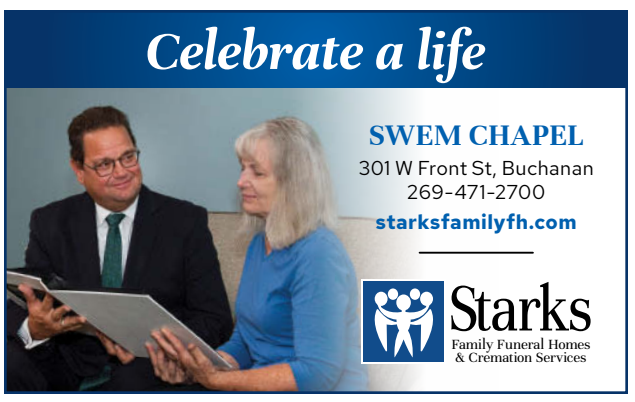
To order memorial trees or send flowers to the family in memory of Donald Allen Welch, Sr., please visit our flower store.

David Bainbridge

Oct. 8, 1947-July 12, 2024

David S. Bainbridge, 76, of South Bend, passed away on Friday, July 12, 2024, at

See OBITUARIES, Page A7



MARY M. BOLING ESTATE
ESTATE AUCTION
MONDAY JULY 29 @ 11:00 A.M.
Located at 66867 Winding River Rd. - Constantine, MI
West of US-131 (OR) East of US-12 on North River Rd. to Sale.
LOW MILE VEHICLE: 2010 JEEP Compass Limited, 4X4, Black w/Tan Leather Interior, Only 53,000 Miles! HOUSEHOLD ITEMS * COLLECTOR ITEMS: Large Assortment of Hand Made Reed Baskets; Basket Supplies; Craft Supplies; Paint; Antique Bed; Antique Love Seat; Oak Table w/Chairs; Section Sofa; Christmas Decorations; Pocket Watch. GARAGE ITEMS: Old Toledo Meat Slicer; Hand Tools; Craftsman Table Saw.
REAL ESTATE: Approx. 125 Ft. of St. Joe River Front, 3 Bedroom 2-1/2 Bath Metal Roof Home, 2 Car Attached Garage, One Side Heated w/1/2 Bath, Large Open Space Living/Dining Room. Offered at 12-Noon. Terms at open house.
Open House Pre-View Sun. July 28 (1PM - 2PM)
Owner: Lou Ann McClain
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John Glassman (269) 757-3315

CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

J	A	Y		S	R	O		E	M	M	A
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SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

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5	1	6	7	2	3	9	4	8
6	2	1	9	5	8	7	3	4
8	5	7	3	4	6	1	9	2
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1	4	3	8	9	2	5	7	6

OBITUARIES

Continued from page A6

Memorial Hospital in South Bend, IN.

David was born on Oct. 8, 1947, in Dowagiac, MI. He spent his early life in his beloved Cass County Michigan, later attending Dowagiac Union High School, Southwestern Michigan College, and Western Michigan University.

In the early 1980s David moved to South Bend, where he was curator at the Northern Indiana Historical Society, in the Old Courthouse Museum. In his time there Dave helped the museum grow into the W. Washington Street campus it is today. He was especially proud of his work as lead curator of the History Museum's Abraham Lincoln exhibit, and for securing permission to include an original copy of the Gettysburg Address.

The other highlight of David's time at the museum was meeting Carol E. (Ford) Pickerl there. They were married — at the museum — on August 5, 1995.

David's lifelong passion for history and material culture was evident in his many books, antiques, and holiday collections. More than any object, though, David loved people, finding community in other collectors, neighbors, and his many friends and family.

Preceding him in death were his father — Delbert E. Bainbridge; mother — Lola M. (Haas) Bainbridge Lyons; step-father — Harrison Lyons; brother — Charles Bainbridge; and twin-sister — Susan Bainbridge (as an infant).

Surviving are his wife of 28 years — Carol Bainbridge; three children — Andrea (Benn Angon) Bainbridge; Elizabeth (Thaddeus) Claggett; and Jonathan (Joni) Pickerl; three grandchildren - Joseph Angon, Emily (Jesse) Yancy and Robbie Claggett; sister - Brenda Madaj; and several nieces, nephews and extended family.

A service to celebrate Dave's life will be held at 12 p.m. (Eastern time) on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at Clark Chapel-Starks Family Funeral Homes, 405 Center St, Dowagiac, MI, where friends may visit with the family from 10 a.m. until the time of services. Interment will be in Bly Cemetery, Marcellus, MI. Memorial contributions in Dave's name may be directed to the Underground Railroad Society of Cass County (www.urscc.org), where he was a founding board member. Please visit Dave's personalized webpage to share a memory or leave a condolence to his family at www.clarkch.com

Brian Flick

Oct. 7, 1961-July 9, 2024

Brian was the only son of Edward J. Flick and Betty J. Weiser. Both deceased from Niles. He was born in Niles, Michigan on Oct. 7, 1961.

Despite having a 160 IQ and almost going to work for NASA, Brian stayed in Niles and near his parents his whole life. Brian graduated from Niles high school in 1980 and graduated from Trinidad State College in Colorado with a degree in Gunsmithing in 1982. He married Kelly Jackson in 1988 and they have 3 children, Alex (30) Autumn (25) and Andrew (25). And 3 grandchildren Harper (4), Willow (2) and Beau (7 months)

Brian was very inquisitive from a young age, often pondering life's biggest questions. He encouraged his children to do the same and to be independent thinkers.

Brian is survived by siblings Judi Lunger (Gary) of Forney, Texas; Martha (Muff) Jungenberg (Todd) currently serving in the U.S. Foreign Service in La Paz, Bolivia; Shelly Hegland (Gary) of South Bend; and Missy Hatch (Jeff) of Dowagiac. Brian had two remaining Aunts, Mary Helen Hoadley (94) in San Luis Obispo, CA and Patricia (Aunt Pat) Flick in Fenton, Michigan. Brian had 4 cousins in California and Oregon (Kathy Brandt, Nancy Benica, and Fred and Rod Hoadley) and his cousin Meghan (Schmelzer) in Fenton, Michigan.

He also "adopted" a sister Sharon Rayburn in 2000 when Sharon and his bestfriend Mark got married. Mark and Sharon took Brian into their home in March of this year when it was below freezing and his furnace wasn't working. Mark drove Brian to all his doctor appointments despite having some serious health issues of his own. Brian was very lucky to have had such amazing friends. Rick Ranft, Doug Kinney, and Rusty Woofter all stepped up to help Brian in many ways as well. Rick lived close to Hanson House hospice in Stevensville and visited Brian almost every day and sometimes twice a day.

Brian lived alone and his oldest son Alex came to check on his dad twice a day every day. Andrew and his wife Savannah took Brian into their home even though they had their hands full with their two young daughters Harper and Willow. And Autumn made Brian so happy whenever she brought his only grandson (and Brian's doppleganger) Beau (born in November 2023 to Autumn and Nikoda Keefer) to visit him.

Brian's nieces and nephews are Taylor (Lunger) Wood (Dillon), Sophia, Grace, and Emmalee Jungenberg, Sydney Hatch, and Jack Hegland. Great nieces Charlee and Berklee Wood.

Brian had his journeyman card and worked for several tool and die shops over the years. And he was the owner and CEO of BriFlick Productions, making digitized home movies with music for many satisfied customers. Brian highly valued independence. He found great joy in owning his own company so that he could be his own boss. Brian had a love for all things film related - from his company remastering film, to videotaping memories from his own family's life, he loved to capture and view history through the lens of a camera.

He loved to go deer hunting every year. Also going fishing and playing or watching golf which reminded him of his dad. Watching and talking about movies with his sister Muff. His children have fond memories of walking across the street to Family Video, picking out movies and snacks, and watching old movies together. As well as the countless hours spent hunting, fishing, and treasure hunting with metal detectors. Another hobby of Brian's was flying a small Cessna after obtaining his pilot's license.

When he was in high school he got his picture in the Niles Daily Star for taking his canoe from Magician, Michigan (the start of the St. Joe River) all the way to Lake Michigan. He and his buddy Ronnie Myers (who now lives in Perth, Australia) had to portage and camp out and it took them 7 days.

Brian's greatest achievement besides his children was maintaining friendships with his "magnificent seven" buddies. The core group was Brian, Mark Rayburn, Rick Ranft, Ronnie Myers, Tom Maple, Rusty Woofter, and Mike (Led) Zechelin. Unfortunately, Brian was preceded in death by Led who was killed in a car accident on the bypass in Niles in 1988 at the age of 26. Those closest to Brian know he never got over the death of his good friend Led. It was through the passing of his dear friend Led that Brian's home movie business was born when he learned the value of commemorating life through film. Even though Brian wasn't religious, the rest of us can believe that Brian and Led are together again, listening to Zeppelin in heaven.

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Brian, please visit our Tree Store.

Linda L. Rockwell

March 25, 1941-July 12, 2024

Linda L. Rockwell, 83, of Cassopolis, died peacefully Friday morning, July 12, 2024.

Her life began March 25, 1941 in Fremont, Ohio, the older of two daughters born to Howard and Betty Church. She married her high school sweetheart James Michael "Mike" Rockwell Dec.16, 1961 in North Baltimore, Ohio.

Linda spent most of her younger years in North Baltimore, Ohio and graduated Valedictorian of the 1959 class of North Baltimore High School. She attended Toledo Hospital School of Nursing until she chose marriage. Mike and Linda married and moved to southwestern Michigan where they raised their family. Linda started a business designing dried and silk floral arrangements. Her work still adorns homes to this day.

A loving wife, mother, and grandmother, Linda loved spending time with her family at the lake. She was active in Disciples of Christ of St. Joseph, Stevensville United Methodist Church, and then First United Methodist Church of Dowagiac. She lived her love of Jesus through Christian education, missions, and visual arts. Linda was deeply involved in the fiber arts community, leading the Weavers Guild for a number of years.

Linda will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her husband of sixty-two years, Mike Rockwell of Cassopolis; one son, Todd (Christina) Rockwell of Holly, Michigan; one daughter, Dawn (James) Weingart of Elkhart, Indiana; four grandchildren, Michael Rockwell, Jessica Rockwell, Cristopher Weingart, Geneva Weingart; one sister, Judith (Dwight) Stickney of Granite Bay, California; and a host of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and infant granddaughter, Angela Rockwell.

Family and friends will gather Tuesday, July 23, 2024 from 5 p.m. until time of service at 7 p.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis.

Linda will be laid to rest in Old Maplewood Cemetery in North Baltimore, Ohio.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Linda be made to Grace Children's Hospital of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, via the website, www.gracecare.life.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com

Charles M. Lindley Sr.

June 9, 1962-July 16, 2024

Charles Michael "Chuck" Lindley, 62, of Cassopolis, died Tuesday, July 16, 2024.

His life began June 9, 1962, in Tucson, Arizona, fourth of five children born to Charles and Gladys Lindley. He married Tamara Lee Pattee September 18, 1999, in Cassopolis, Michigan.

Chuck cherished his family

and enjoyed people. He had a distinct voice, and you would always know when he was around. He loved golfing, throwing horseshoes, having get-togethers with his family, playing cards, and watching basketball. He grew up attending The Lord's House Church in Cassopolis. Chuck started and grew C.L. Painting. He was passionate and proud of his business and the community that he loved.

Chuck will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his beloved wife of twenty-five years, Tammie Lindley of Cassopolis; daughter, Brooke (Amy Nelson) Lindley of Kalamazoo; son, Charles Michael "CJ" Lindley Jr. of Cassopolis; stepsons, Eric (Nichole) Keck of Cassopolis, Tadd (Katie) Caudill of Marcellus; three granddaughters, Emma, Ella, Bryanna; sisters, Debra (Keith) Barnum of Cassopolis, Lawara "Jean" (Tom) Casey of Dowagiac; brother, John Lindley of Cassopolis; half-brother, Ted Lindley of Elkhart, Indiana; and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; stepson, Trent Caudill; brother, Jeff Lindley; and nephew, JP Gartland III.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, July 20, 2024, from 12 noon until time of service at 2 p.m., in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com

Rommel J. Nickert

April 7, 1954-July 12, 2024

Rommel Jon Nickert, age 70 of Kalamazoo, passed away peacefully July 12, 2024 after a long and prosperous life that ended in a valiant battle with Dementia. His life began April 7, 1954 in Dowagiac, Michigan. Rom was the third of three children born to Herman Jay and Caryl Hazel Nickert.

Rom excelled in many endeavors across his 70 years. When he was only a teen, he built a dory boat in his high school shop class. Despite being a family of avid fishermen, the Nickerts had never owned their own fishing boat, until Rom built one. Rom was such a skilled craftsman, that the dory boat both saw the waters of Lake Michigan and became a staple in the family's trips to the Florida Keys. These vacations were some of Rom's fondest memories from his youth. As a teen, Rom was also an enthusiastic motorcyclist, facing fierce competition on the flat track, and collecting a handful of trophies along the way. This hobby translated into a lifelong love of NASCAR racing. He could often be found with his brother at local racetracks throughout southwest Michigan, and at times even NASCAR races as far as North Carolina. A road trip never deterred Rom from a race. He was deeply familiar with cross country travel thanks to his career as a semi-truck driver.

He was committed to fitness and prioritized his health, always exercising even while balancing

his work schedule and life on the road. He was a film enthusiast, or at least a Bohemian Rhapsody enthusiast, as he saw the film in theaters five times (a high, but unsurprising number considering Queen was his favorite band of all time). When he wasn't watching Bohemian Rhapsody, Rom was religiously watching NCIS, a show he loved so infectiously he got those he shared a Netflix account with hooked on as well. He loved good food and was a gentle, kind man.

This led to him being a wonderful source of encouragement for his niece, who, while not much of a baker, was always welcome to bake for him. He ate every last crumb of banana bread that his niece abhorrently undercooked. Rom was a simple man in the most beautiful, commendable, and authentic way. He appreciated a trip to McDonalds or Subway as much as a coveted reservation at a 5-star restaurant. He was not a materialistic man but was thrilled by the deals he found on miscellaneous goods at Ollie's. He looked forward to weekend outings with his brother and sister-in-law to watch the latest blockbuster topping the box office.

The visit that ended up being Rom's last visit to his brother's house was fittingly spent viewing slides of photos from his childhood on an ancient projector that almost overheated several times. Despite being in the late stages of his illness, he acted as the fact-checker that night. While his brother reminisced to the family about their childhood trips, Rom clarified who was in the photos. He confirmed the locations of campouts and the lake names. At times he even corrected his brother, entirely unprompted. Rom still remembered. He remembered his cherished childhood trips with fondness and fervor. He remembered what and who he loved. We hope that everyone remembers Rom the same way: for what and who he loved.

Rom will be greatly missed by his family and friends. He is survived by brother, Van (Lana) Nickert of Kalamazoo; sister, Cheri Johnson of Seattle, Washington; half-sister, Shirley Behrman of Gabbs, Nevada, and two nieces, Ally Nickert of Cleveland, Haley Nickert of Kalamazoo, four half nephews Jimmy, Ronny, Kim, and Mark, and a half niece Jody of Nevada. He was preceded in death by his parents Caryl and Herman J Nickert and many aunts and uncles.

The family will observe a private remembrance. The family would like to thank the staff at Vibrant Living that cared for Rom throughout his time with dementia.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Rommel may be made to National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and encourages loved ones to listen to a Queen song, or all of them, in his honor.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com

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ROW

Continued from page A1

beauty of relaxing along the banks of the St. Joseph River in the summertime.

The "Row" in Thistledown & Row comes from the sport of rowing, a passion that Anne's sister, Fran, of Flatwater Farms, loves to participate in on the St. Joseph River.

"The reason she came to Buchanan and the reason she bought the farm that the brewery is on is because of rowing," Tuite said. "So we're calling the bar area 'Row' and the restaurant 'Thistledown.'"

Built in 1884 by brothers Samuel and Levi Redden, the "Redden Building" has watched over downtown Buchanan for 140 years. The second story is said to have been built subsequent to the construction of the first story in 1884, and at one time housed one of the two Buchanan Masonic Lodges which existed in the 19th Century.

Having sat vacant for years, the Redden Building was a shell of its former self when the Rowlands purchased the property in 2020. The roof was in the basement and the building was in need of extensive repairs. After four years of hard work, the building is almost ready to be reintroduced to downtown Buchanan.

"We drove by it every day, like everyone else does," Elaine said. "It had been sitting empty and vacant and just deteriorating and it's just heartbreaking. Michael and I just took the leap and we've been supported by the City of Buchanan and the community as a whole and that means a lot. We care deeply about our community, and we chose to move back here from Denver and it's just important for our kids to grow up in a place like we grew up. We want to leave that legacy and we want to make our community even better than we found it when we moved back."

With the bulk of the renovation work completed by the Rowlands, many of the building's original features – from the original brick walls to the tin ceilings – have been restored or repurposed in a new way.

"Things like that are important to maintain the history and integrity of the building," Rowland said. "Preservation is so important to us but we're also making everything modern so that's super exciting. (River Saint Joe) has been open to reusing or repurposing a lot of the things that have been in areas of the building. It's important to them, too, so I like that we've been able to be on the same page."

"Part of our mission is to recycle – sustainability has always been part of that," Tuite added.

The first phase of the Redden redevelopment project, Hometown & Co. – a small business incubator for emerging businesses in the food and retail sector managed by LiveBuchanan – opened its doors last December at 101 Days Ave.

According to Tuite, the concept of a downtown Buchanan restaurant came about after conversations with Rowland, who is also the marketing director at Fernwood Botanical Garden.

"I think conversations of supporting each other with our stuff and just Elaine's expertise in marketing and her interest in trying to help us promote (River Saint Joe), I think that's where it started," Tuite said. "It was a big call in Buchanan through surveys that people really wanted a restaurant and because that's what this was, it made sense."

After reviewing community survey data emphasizing the desire for more restaurants in the area, the Rowlands felt that Buchanan Craft/River St. Joe would make for the perfect partner.

"Michael and I have always been big fans of River St. Joe and the leadership team there," Elaine said. "I feel like we're on the same page with a lot of values and when we bought this space, we thought wouldn't it be cool if we had our friends at River St. Joe do something down here fitting the needs of downtown and the central Buchanan community. We just knew now was the time to jump on board and join in and Buchanan is in such a great spot right now. So many wonderful things are happening, and we really wanted to be a part of that.

"We wanted to bring our friends along for that and we wouldn't have wanted to do it with anyone else, so it's nice to be able to have people you can trust and know that they're the experts in that field."

The Rowlands and Tuite have been overwhelmed with generosity from the downtown Buchanan community and are looking forward to contributing to its positive momentum.

"We're just as excited as everyone else to get it open and to have meals with our friends and family here," Elaine said. "We are working as quickly as we can."

OLYMPICS

Continued from page A1

has grown to 33 athletes ranging from 5 to 18 years of age from throughout Southwest Michigan who compete in indoor and outdoor meets across the state.

Love, who is also a pastor, said he created the program to prepare athletes to compete at the AAU Junior Olympic Games and is proud of his team's efforts. Last year, 24 members of the team qualified for the Junior Olympic Games.

"It gives them exposure," Love said. "To run against some of the fastest kids in the world and the impact that has had on those that still remain is huge."

Harris competed in the Junior Olympics last year and is looking forward to returning. "It's a big opportunity for me because all these people are gonna see me," she said. "Millions of people have seen me do what I love doing and now it's gonna happen again."

The opportunities TLT provides young athletes has been appreciated by athletes and parents alike have experienced its impact.

"Before joining the team, I had track skill but I had really no idea on how much this would impact my life," said Loryana Harris. "I've gotten closer to God meeting coach Love and I'm doing things that I never thought I'd do, like high jump. He's changed my life in so many ways, from skill to just having a personal relationship with him."

"It's giving me so much hope for my daughter's future," added parent Lori Lesniak. "I saw the difference that it made in her self-esteem, confidence, work ethic and discipline. It definitely has made a huge difference in my life. I get excited about it too because my daughter is excited and she's part of it and to see the other kids that get to participate and get a grasp of what's really going on is amazing."

For more information about Team Love Track and how to get involved, contact Love at icarechhurchniles@gmail.com.

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Lauren Beaudreau, a recent Notre Dame graduate, received a sponsor's exemption, and will play in her second Four Winds Invitational next month.

Exemptions announced for Four Winds invite

COMMUNITY NEWS

SOUTH BEND — With just over a month to go before the Four Winds Invitational at the South Bend Country Club, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and its Four Winds Casinos have announced that Lauren Beaudreau, Gabby Lemieux, and Annabelle Pancake have received sponsor exemptions to play in the tournament.

Sponsor exemptions are used to give amateurs and up-and-coming players the opportunity to play in tournaments and compete against professionals.

The Four Winds Invitational is part of the Epson Tour schedule, which entered its 44th year of structured competition in 2024 and is the most established women's qualifying tour in the world as the one "Road to the LPGA." The tournament will take place from Friday, Aug. 30 through Sunday, Sept. 1.

"The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi and its Four Winds Casinos are proud to have selected Lauren Beaudreau, Gabby Lemieux, and Annabelle Pancake as our sponsor exempt players for the 2024 Four Winds Invitational, said Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and Community Relations/Security for Four Winds Casino. "Each are rising stars and represent the high level of talent competing on the LPGA's Epson Tour. We wish them all the best of luck for this year's tournament."

See FOUR WINDS, page B2

ACADEMIC ALL-STATE HONOREES

Brandywine, Buchanan, Niles players, teams earn awards

By SCOTT NOVAK
scott.novak@leaderpub.com

NILES — For the 20th straight year, the Dowagiac softball team has earned Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association Division 2 Academic All-State.

Lailia Vance

Edwardsburg and Niles joined the Chieftains in Division 2, while Brandywine and Buchanan earned Division 3 honors.

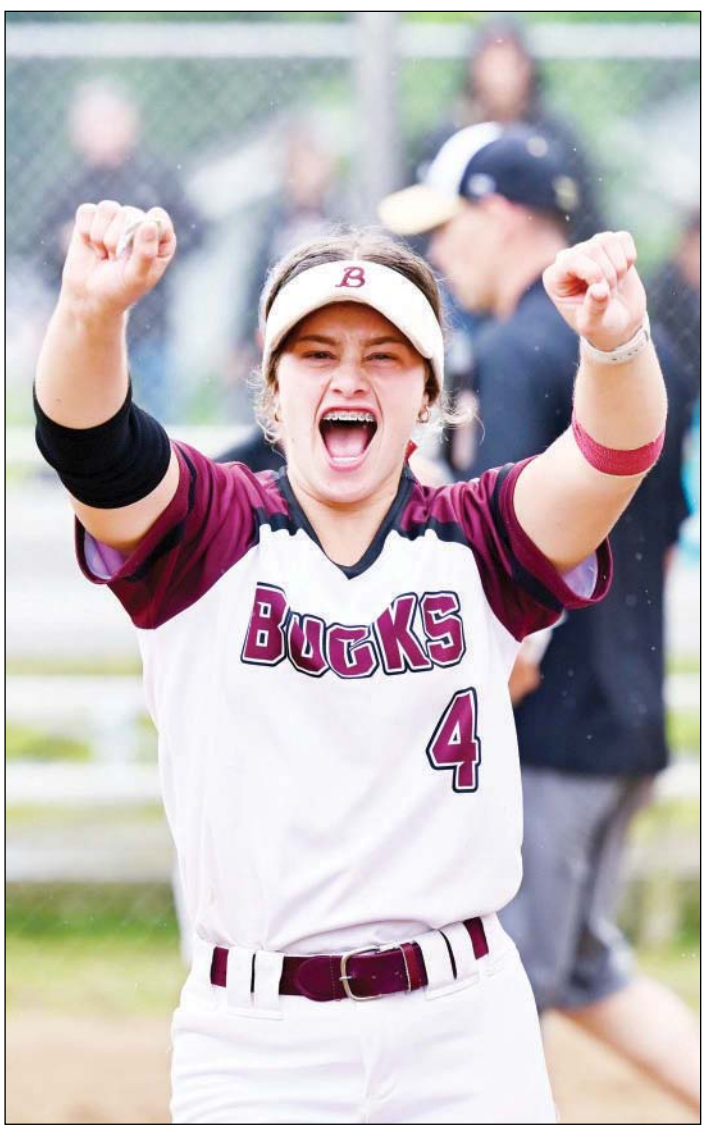
In Division 4, Decatur and Marcellus earned academic all-state.

These six schools earned team status and produced at least one individual academic all-state honoree.

To earn individual academic all-state, a player must have a cumulative GPA of 3.60 or higher over the course of her high school career, not just a single season. A team must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Earning academic all-state in Division 2 were Dowagiac's Aubrey Busby, Edwardsburg's Lexi Schimpa and Niles Emerson Garrard and Lailia Vance.

In Division 3, Brandywine's Kadence Brumitt received the honor, as did Buchanan's Camille Lozmack and Hannah Herman.



FILE PHOTO | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Buchanan's Hannah Herman (left) and Camille Lozmack were named Division 3 Academic All-State, as was the Bucks team, by the Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association.

FILE PHOTOS | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Brandywine's Kadence Brumitt (left) and Niles' Emerson Garrard have earned individual Academic All-State honors, as well as their teams, from the Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association.

Roadrunners sign Cassopolis' Burks

COMMUNITY NEWS

DOWAGIAC — As the beginning of the season is rapidly approaching, Southwestern Michigan College Volleyball Coach Jenny Nate has inked another player to the Class of 2024.

Former Cassopolis standout Ryli Burks has signed a National Junior College Athletic Association letter of intent play for the Roadrunners this fall.

"Ryli will be a major-impact player both as an attacker and as a setter for us," Nate said. "She is first team all-conference, was captain of the Rangers, and brings talent, high-level skill, and a wealth of experience from both her high school career and her NIVA Volleyball Club career where she has been a key performer for the past four years. We are excited to have her on the SMC volleyball team and love signing outstanding, local talent."

Burks' high school coach, Kaisha Martin said that SMC is getting a player who can deliver.

"Ryli is a playmaker," she said. "When there is a play that needs to be executed, Ryli is someone who is going to get the job done."

Burks joins Reese Maa,s of Michigan Lutheran; Kallie Solloway, of Brandywine; Gia Jania, of Westville, Indiana; Talan Hiemstra, of Marcellus; Breanna Bara, of Hebron, Indiana; plus Zyon Brazo and Kadence Bixby, both of Niles, in the 2024 SMC Volleyball recruiting class.

The Roadrunners return seven players to the roster: Amanda Jones, Cadence Knight, Carlie Ritchie, Brianna Russell, Abi Marquis, Anna Johnson and Josie West.

Softball will allow two-way communication in 2025

COMMUNITY NEWS

INDIANAPOLIS — High school softball coaches will be able to use electronic devices in the dugout for one-way communication to the catcher while the team is on defense beginning in 2025.

This landmark change was the highlight of the NFHS Softball Rules Committee's two rules recommendations, which were forwarded as a result of the committee's annual rules meeting held June 9-11 at The Alexander hotel in Indianapolis. The NFHS Board of Directors approved both rules changes to take effect next year.

"This change is the reswult of analysis of current data, state association experimentation and a positive response from the membership," said Sandy Searcy, NFHS director of sports and liaison to the Softball Rules Committee. "The committee has made these changes to support the use of emerging technology within the sport of softball. Being a permissive rule, the use of this one-way electronic communication will allow those who choose to embrace the technology an additional option to communicate with the catcher while on defense. It will also maintain the ability for those who prefer a more traditional approach to communicate using signals or a playbook/playcard to continue that approach."

Accommodating one-way communication to the catcher brought new language to two different sections of the NFHS Softball Rules Book, starting with Rule 1-8-6. Devices such as earpieces, electronic bands and "smart" watches are now permitted as an EXCEPTION within the rule provided the player does not utilize said device to return correspondence to the coaching staff. Prior to this change, team personnel could "record or transmit information pertaining to their players or team's performance," but could not communicate that information directly to players on the field during play.

Since both rules were updated for this change, the penalty from Rule 3-6-11 was added to Rule 1-8-6 as well, with violators subject to ejection unless the offense is ruled to be "of a minor nature." This penalty has been in place for Rule 3-6-11 allowing the umpire to issue a warning if the offense is minor and then eject if the offense is repeated.

In addition to permitting the one-way communication devices, the updated version of Rule 3-6-11 regarding "Bench and Field Conduct" specifies that coaches are prohibited from using the device "to communicate with any other team member while on defense or any team member while on offense" and the coach cannot use the device "outside the dugout/bench area."

The second rules alteration for the 2025 season occurred in Rule 9-3-2b, where the Scoring and Record Keeping details surrounding a player's batting record were edited to align with the enforcement in Rule 8-6-11, which covers the runner's actions and provides the direct penalty for those actions.

FILE PHOTO | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Coaches will be able to have two-way communicate with their catchers starting in 2025.

A complete listing of the softball rules changes will be available on the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org. Click on "Activities & Sports" at the top of the home page and select "Softball."

According to the most recent NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, 344,952 girls in 15,406 high schools played fast-pitch softball in 2022-23 making it the fifth-most popular girls sport, while an additional 6,058 girls participated in slow-pitch softball.

19 Roadrunners earn NJCAA All-Academic honors

COMMUNITY NEWS

DOWAGIAC — The NJCAA announced their 2023-2024 All-Academic Teams today, and the SMC Roadrunners are well-represented.

Nineteen student-athletes were named to the three teams for their performance in the classroom. To qualify as First Team, students must earn a 4.00 GPA, Second Team is 3.80-3.99 GPA and Third Team is 3.60-3.79 GPA.

NJCAA All-Academic First Team: Abi Marquis (Volleyball), Taylor Miller (Volleyball) and Tori Yates (Women's CC).

NJCAA All-Academic Second Team: Emma Beckman (Volleyball), Sophia Deeds (Volleyball), Anna Johnson (Volleyball), Micah Ordway (Men's CC), Morgan Piezcynski (Women's CC), Carlie Ritchie (Volleyball), Juliette Schroeder (Volleyball), Riley Sinkler (Women's CC) and Kierstyn Thompson (Women's CC).

NJCAA All-Academic Third Team: Charlee Balcom (Women's BB), Emilee Demski (Volleyball), Amanda Jones (Volleyball), Macey Laubach (Women's BB), Taylor Meier (Women's CC), John Sanderson (Men's CC) and Cameron Thomas (Women's BB).

SUBMITTED PHOTO | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Gabby Lemieux is one of three players to earn exemptions.

FOUR WINDS

Continued from page B1

South Bend Country Club General Manager Greg Helmkamp added, "Lauren, Gabby and Annabelle have a passion for the sport and proven tournament performance to compete with the best players on the LPGA's Epson Tour. We look forward to welcoming them to South Bend Country Club, along with the rest of the field, for a very competitive tournament this year."

Beaudreau is from Lemont, Illinois and recently graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a master's degree in business analytics. Lauren had three career collegiate wins with the largest and most recent coming at the NCAA regional at East Lansing in which she set the Notre Dame 54-hole scoring record at -12. She has also competed in eight USGA championships and will be making her second appearance in the Four Winds Invitational.

Lemieux is from Caldwell, Idaho and is a graduate of Texas Tech University. She is part of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe and the first Native American to compete in the US. Women's Open in 2022. Her top tournament finishes include winning the Idaho Women's Amateur three times. She has also had three top-ten finishes on the Epson Tour

Pancake is from Zionsville, Indiana and is a graduate of Clemson University. She is the 2019 and 2021 Indiana Women's Amateur Champion. Her top tournament finishes include runner up at the 2023 Women's British Amateur and winning the 2024 Sea Island Amateur

Volunteers are still needed to fill a variety of roles at the 2024 Four Winds Invitational. Volunteer roles include assisting with scoring duties and serving as building attendants, caddies, cart drivers, driving range attendants, food and beverage servers, marshals and spotters, parking attendants, standard bearers, shuttle drivers, and more. For more information and to complete the volunteer application, visit events.trustevent.com/templates/index.cfm?fuseaction=templates.home&eid=4885 or contact Steve Infalt, Four Winds Invitational Volunteer Coordinator at fwivolunteer@southbendcc.com.

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EOE

Auctions & Sales

Garage Sales

Garage Sale
103 N. Lowe St
Dowagiac,
July 18th-19th, 25th-27th
9:30am until ?
Assorted size clothing, toys, games, puzzles, books, home decor, linens, kitchenware, jewelry, some furniture.

Merchandise

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For information call
269-782-5515 Office
269-429-5757 St. Joe and
269-861-2359 Dowagiac

Miscellaneous For Sale

Clean Sand!
Various Uses
U-Haul, bring bucket
(269)635-0831

Miscellaneous For Sale

For sale, a refurbished mid-2019 Apple Macbook Pro with .4 GHz Intel Core i5 (13.3 inch, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD) Space Gray (Renewed)
Brand Apple
Model Name MV962LL/A
Screen Size 13.3 Inches
Color Space Gray
Hard Disk Size 256 GB
CPU Model Core i5
Ram Memory Installed Size 8 GB
Operating System Mac OS
Special Feature IPS Retina Display, True Tone Technology, Touch Bar | Touch ID Sensor
Graphics Card Description Integrated
Asking $500. It is still in the box.

Also for sale, a RIF6 adjustable height standing desk converter — 32-inch wide laptop riser or dual monitor workstation. Easily sit or stand with gas spring lift. Still in the box. Asking $75. Will sell in combo with the computer or separately.

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Need to find the right employee?
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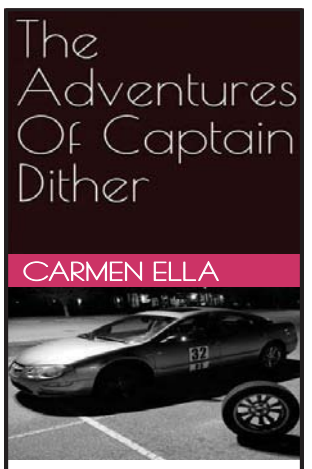
Notices

General Notices



New Author, New book, on Amazon

Rentals

Apartments

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Includes all utilities.
Eligibility requirements.
Preference given to applicants whose income is below
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For more information, contact Sheryl DeRyder, Manager
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2020 Hyundai Elantra-Red
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Only $750 down!
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AUCTION
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Miscellaneous Services

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Wanted: Bookkeeper

Part-time, 12 to 16 hours per week, bookkeeping position. Areas of responsibility include fund accounting, accounts payable, accounts receivable, cost center reconciliation, cash balance bank reconciliation, payroll and tax withholding, budget analysis and preparation, account revenue and expenditure balancing. Qualifications should include at least two years of related work experience. Computer Programs used are: BS&A, Word, Excel. Excellent PC skills and experience in accounting software systems is necessary.
Good people skills are essential.
Oronoko Charter Township is an equal opportunity employer.
Please submit your resume to
Oronoko Charter Township Clerk.
PO Box 214, Berrien Springs, MI 49103;
clerk@oronokotownship.org.
Deadline is July 26, 2024.

Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF NILES, MICHIGAN
INVITATION TO BID
Grit Removal WWTP

Sealed proposals marked **"Grit Removal WWTP"** will be received by the **City of Niles in the**
Office of the City Clerk, 333 N. Second Street, Ste. 301, Niles, Michigan 49120 until 2:30 PM (local time) Wednesday, August 14th 2024, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud for furnishing the City of Niles with the following:
Wet-well cleaning and grit removal of the following:
Dimensions are approximate
Influent wet-well 9'x 50'
Grit chamber channels (2) 4'x 50'
Grit tank 40' x 40'
Sludge Storage tank 56' diameter
Adherence of all safety and work rules of the City of Niles WWTP.
Vehicles may be stored on site during the duration of the job.
Vehicles shall be dewatered on site.
All waste collected from cleaning shall be disposed of on site EXCEPT for the sludge from the Sludge Storage tank which will need to be hauled off site by contractor.
WWTP hours 6am-4pm
Quotations due by 2:30 P.M. EST., Wednesday, August 14th 2024.
Questions on this request for quotation may be directed to:
John Simpson- Superintendent
wwsuperintendent@nilesmi.org
269-683-8015
Scott Powers- Chief Operator/ Mechanic
spowers@nilesmi.org
269-262-2545

Niles Daily Star:
July 20, 2024
BIDS

Do you have available jobs?

Call 269-591-6105 to let others know about job opportunities at your business.

PUBLIC NOTICE

AUCTION

Niles Storage, 2457 Yankee St., Niles, MI 49120
August 3, 2024 @ 4:00 pm
Owners lien - overdue rents

Unit # 52 Brandon Szymonski

Niles Daily Star
July 20 and 27, 2024
STORAGE AUCTION

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

NILES DISTRICT LIBRARY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED 2024-2025 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the Niles District Library, 620 East Main Street, Niles, Michigan, the District Library Board of Niles District Library will hold a public hearing to consider the District Library's proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget.
The Board may not adopt its proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget until after the public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2024-2025 budget including the proposed property tax millage rate is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the District Library, 620 East Main Street, Niles, Michigan. All interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard at the public hearing regarding the proposed budget.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Niles District Library Board.
Tifanni Dash, Secretary.

Niles Daily Star: July 20, 2024
BUDGET HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE

Economy Storage, 2206 Yankee Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday July 27, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Unit#	Name
10	Charmin Kelly
16	Tyson Fuller
52/53	Robert Valentie
60	Purnell Martin
108	Terry Riege
114	Tellie Doan
116	Melissa Kaeding
127	Chris Norris
145/468	Michael Merritt
166	Crystal Tripp
183	Cindy Fisher
217	James Russell
243	Sherrie Brewington
246	Missi Stanfill
284	Kathleen Peterson
342	Terrence Moss
346	DaMonica Williams
379	Bobbi Helms
389	Parnell Jenkins
410/534	Rebecca Coleman
451	Jean Fitch
452	Tyler Mahar
486	Leigh Anne Norris
501	Kyle Visel-Kelly
506	Donna Haynes
511	Alonzo McDaniel
529	Robert Wojcik
545	Candy Whitmire
550	Cameron Nixon
557	Michelle Richter
596 + 7	Anthony Marzolo
605	Michael Lewark
628/499	Altavious Stone
661	Rodney Prescott
671	James Roman

Niles U-Stor It, 1314 E. Main Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday July 27, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

30	Curtis Sheldon
57	Nathan Haynes
59/38	Roxie Kiefer

J & J Storage, 2220 S. 13th Street and 2627 S. 11th Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday July 27, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

33	Tammera Carbon
60	Samantha Williams
97	Blake King
128	Rachel Lonsbury
155	Christine George
161/169	Chris Miller
165	Sharon Helms
191	Chris Craig
238/466	James Diss
263	Tamara Holmes
301	Rebecca Nichols
404/499	April Christy
410/333	Tina Hollis
452	Aaron Smith
465	John VanTubbergen
485	Jessica Patterson
498	James Roman
511	Christy Waggoner

Niles Daily Star:
July 13 and 20, 2024
STORAGE AUCTION

PUBLIC NOTICE

SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF THE ONTWA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONDAY JULY 8, 2024

The regular meeting of the Ontwa Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00pm.
Roll call showed Supervisor Marchetti, Clerk VanBelle, Treasurer Leist, Trustees Stutsman, Kozinski, Bolock and Christensen were present.
Approval of the Agenda
Public Comment: Nine residents spoke against Eddies Market rezoning, one resident spoke in favor of the rezoning. One resident addressed a dock issue.
Approval of Consent Agenda
Commissioner Reports
Old Business: Elkhart Road Project
New Business: Manhole casting adjustments, Detroit Pump for C3, Eddies Market Rezoning, Custom Fencing quote Schedule of township meetings: Board of Trustees August 12th, Ambulance Board July 10th, Police Board July 11th, Wastewater Board July 24th, Planning Commission August 7th
Meeting Adjourned 8:12pm.
Minutes of Board of Trustee meetings may be found on the Township website: www.ontwatwp.org

Respectfully submitted by Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Township Clerk
Approved for Publication by Supervisor Jerry Marchetti

Niles Daily Star:
July 20, 2024
SYNOPSIS

Looking for a home?

Look in our classifieds section and learn of great deals for you and your family.

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE AND CREDITORS NOTICE
FILE NO.
2024 - 0527- DE- R

ESTATE OF DENNIS ALAN MDGILL, Deceased Date of Birth: October 4, 1955
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including creditors and heirs of the deceased whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
Be advised that a Petition for Determination of Heirs has been filed with the Court and a hearing on said Petition will be held on **TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024, at 10:10 A.M.**, via Zoom teleconference. Please contact the attorney for the estate for further information.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The Decedent, DENNIS ALAN MCGILL, who lived at 1930 Bond Street, Niles, Michigan, died September 5, 2023.
Creditors of the Decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to L. A. ORDIALES ANGELES-MCGILL, named personal representative, or to the probate court at 811 Port Street, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085 - 1183 and the named personal representative within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.
July 11, 2024
L.A. Ordiales Angeles - McGill

Robert L. Landgraf, Jr.
Attorney Post Office Box 1310
Niles, Michigan 49120 - 1310
(269) 683 - 8300

Niles Daily Star:
July 20, 2024
EST/MCGILL, D.

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOTICE OF HEARING
FOR THE ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS OF
INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY
CASE NO. U-21551

• Indiana Michigan Power Company requests Michigan Public Service Commission's approval to commence a renewable energy cost reconciliation proceeding for the 12-month period ended December 31, 2023.

• The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.

• You may call or write Indiana Michigan Power Company, 2425 Meadowbrook Rd., Benton Harbor, MI 49022, (800) 311-6424, for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the documents at the offices of Indiana Michigan Power Company or on the Commission's website at: michigan.gov/mpscedockets.

• A pre-hearing will be held:

DATE/TIME: **Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 10:00 AM**

BEFORE: **Administrative Law Judge Sally L. Wallace**

LOCATION: **Video/Teleconferencing**

PARTICIPATION: Any interested person may participate. Persons needing any assistance to participate should contact the Commission's Executive Secretary at (517) 284-8096, or by email at mpscedockets@michigan.gov in advance of the hearing.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a pre-hearing to consider Indiana Michigan Power Company's (I&M) June 27, 2024 application requesting the commission to: 1) approve I&M to commence a Renewable Energy Cost Reconciliation proceeding for the period ended December 31, 2023; 2) approve 394,584 RECs as I&M's 2022 Renewable Energy Credit Portfolio Standard requirement set forth in 2008 PA 295, as amended by 3 Public Act 342 of 2016; 3) determine that I&M is in compliance with the renewable energy standard requirements set forth in 2008 PA 295, as amended by Public Act 342 of 2016, for the 2023 compliance period; 4) approve as reasonable and prudent I&M's reconciliation of RE Surcharge revenues and total actual cost of compliance through December 31, 2023, resulting in a regulatory liability, including carrying charges, of $26,515,675; and 5) grant I&M other and additional relief as the Commission may deem reasonable and appropriate.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: michigan.gov/mpscedockets. Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in Word or PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: mpscedockets@michigan.gov. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: mpscedockets@michigan.gov.

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by August 6, 2024. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Indiana Michigan Power Company's attorney, Richard J. Aaron, 201 Townsend St., Ste. 900, Lansing, MI 48933.

The prehearing is scheduled to be held remotely by video conference or teleconference. Persons filing a petition to intervene will be advised of the process to participate in the hearing.

Any person wishing to participate without intervention under Mich Admin Code, R 792.10413 (Rule 413), or file a public comment, may do so by filing a written statement in this docket. The written statement may be mailed or emailed and should reference Case No. U-21551. Statements may be emailed to: mpscedockets@michigan.gov. Statements may be mailed to: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917. All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules R 792.10422 and R 792.10432. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6j et seq.; 2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001 et seq.; and Parts 1 & 4 of the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules, Mich. Admin Code, R 792.10106 and R 792.10401 through R 792.10448.

U-21551

INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER
An AEP Company
BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

CITY OF BUCHANAN
(Berrien County, Michigan)
ORDINANCE NO. 2024.06/439
ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF ADDITIONAL SERIES OF WATER SUPPLY AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM JUNIOR REVENUE BONDS

THE CITY OF BUCHANAN ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. Except as provided in this Series 2024 Ordinance, the definitions contained in Ordinance 2020.01/415, as amended by Ordinance 2020.03.416 shall apply to the terms in this Series 2024 Ordinance. In addition, whenever used in this Series 2024 Ordinance except when otherwise indicated by context, the following definitions shall apply to the terms in this Series 2024 Ordinance:

(a) "Additional Junior Lien Bonds" means any additional Junior Lien Bonds issued in the future.

(b) "Authorized Officer" means the Mayor, the City Manager, the Clerk, and the Treasurer of the City or any one of them acting alone or any number of them acting together.

(c) "Bondholder" or "Bondholders" means the holder or holders of the Bonds.

(d) "Bonds" as defined in the Ordinance shall include the Series 2024 Bonds and any Additional Junior Lien Bonds.

(e) "Construction Fund" shall mean a construction fund created pursuant to Section 14.

(f) "Improvements" means improvements to the System, including without limitation, improving, replacing and installing new water mains, install new water supply well and well house, construct new water treatment system and building, replace galvanized and lead goosenecks within the water project areas, improving, replacing and installing new sewer mains, including gravity, interceptor and force mains, separate combined storm sewer and sanitary sewer, replace sanitary sewer and storm sewer and lift station improvements, as well as all work, equipment, furnishings and appurtenances necessary or incidental to these improvements and such other improvements to the Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System as the City may determine to make.

(g) "Junior Lien Bonds" as defined in the Ordinance shall include any bonds or other obligations that may be issued or incurred by the City payable from the Revenues of the System secured by a lien on the Net Revenues of the System that is subordinate to a first lien on the Net Revenues of the System created for the benefit of any Senior Lien Bonds and shall include the Series 2024 Bonds.

(h) "Paying Agent" shall mean the paying agent as provided in Section 8.

(i) "Series 2024 Ordinance" means this ordinance and all amendments hereto which shall be included in the definition of Ordinance contained in the Ordinance.

(j) "Series 2024 Bonds" means the City's Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System Junior Lien Revenue Bonds, Series 2024, issued in multiple series consisting of the Series 2024A Bonds and the Series 2024B Bonds.

(k) "Series 2024A Bonds" means the City's Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System Junior Lien Revenue Bonds, Series 2024A (Taxable) issued to fund sanitary sewer improvements to the System.

(l) "Series 2024B Bonds" means the City's Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System Junior Lien Revenue Bonds, Series 2024B (Taxable) issued to fund water supply improvements to the System, which may be issued in more than one series.

(m) "United States" means the United States of America.

SECTION 2. NECESSITY, PUBLIC PURPOSE. It is hereby determined to be necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare of the City to acquire and construct the Improvements to the System in accordance with the maps, plans, and specifications therefore prepared by the City's Consulting Engineers, which are hereby approved.

SECTION 3. ESTIMATED COST; PERIOD OF USEFULNESS: The cost of the Improvements has been estimated by the engineers to be approximately $18,197,000 including the payment of legal, engineering, financial, and other expenses, which estimate of cost is approved and confirmed, and the period of usefulness of the Improvements is estimated to be greater than forty (40) years.

SECTION 4. ISSUANCE OF BONDS. To pay a portion of the cost of acquiring and constructing the Improvements and to pay the legal and financial expenses and all other expenses incidental to the issuance of the Series 2024 Bonds, the City shall borrow the sum of not to exceed $18,197,000 and issue its revenue bonds pursuant to the provisions of the Act. The Series 2024 Bonds shall be issued in two series in the aggregate principal sum of not to exceed $18,197,000, with the principal amount of each series as finally determined by the Authorized Officer at the time of sale.

SECTION 5. SERIES 2024 BOND TERMS. The Series 2024 Bonds shall be issued in two or more series with each series issued as one fully registered manuscript bond, shall be sold and delivered to the United States in denominations of $1,000 or any whole multiple thereof. Each series of the Series 2024 Bonds shall be dated the date of delivery to the United States, or such other date approved by the Authorized Officer, and shall be payable on the dates and in the amounts determined by the Authorized Officer at the time of sale provided the final maturity of each series of the Series 2024 Bonds shall be no later than forty (40) years after the date of issuance. The Series 2024 Bonds shall bear interest at a rate or rates as determined by the Authorized Officer, payable semiannually on the dates determined by the Authorized Officer at the time of sale. The Authorized Officer may alter or determine the Series 2024 Bonds terms within the parameters of this Ordinance as hereafter provided.

SECTION 6. PAYMENT OF SERIES 2024 BONDS; PLEDGE OF NET REVENUES. Principal of and interest on the Series 2024 Bonds shall be payable in lawful money of the United States to the person appearing on the bond registration books as the registered owner thereof. Payment of principal on the Series 2024 Bonds shall be made at the principal office of the Paying Agent. Payment of interest on the Series 2024 Bonds shall be paid to the registered owner at the address as it appears on the registration books. The principal of and interest on the Series 2024 Bonds shall be payable from the Net Revenues derived from the operation of the System, including future improvements, enlargements, and extensions thereof, after provision has been made for the payment of expenses of administration, operation, and maintenance thereof. The Net Revenues of the System, including future enlargements, improvements, and extensions thereto, are hereby pledged to the payment of the principal of and interest on the Series 2024 Bonds. To secure the payment of the principal of and interest on the Series 2024 Bonds, a statutory lien is created pursuant to the Act 94 to and in favor of the Bondholders of the Series 2024 Bonds upon the Net Revenues of the System, including future enlargements, improvements, and extensions thereof. The statutory lien on the Net Revenues securing any Senior Lien Bonds shall be a senior lien as provided in Act 94 and shall at all times and in all respects be and remain superior to the lien on the Net Revenues securing any Junior Lien Bonds, including the Series 2024 Bonds which are Junior Lien Bonds. The Net Revenues so pledged shall be and remain subject to such lien until the payment in full of the principal of and interest on the Series 2024 Bonds or until Series 2024 Bonds are defeased as provided in the Ordinance.

The Series 2024 Bonds, including both principal and interest thereon, shall not be a general obligation of the City and shall not constitute an indebtedness of the City for the purpose of any debt limitations imposed by any applicable constitutional, statutory, or charter provisions.

While any Series 2024 Bonds are held by the United States, principal of and interest on those Series 2024 Bonds shall be paid in lawful money of the United States to the United States or its assignee by draft, check or pre-authorized debit at the office specified in writing or by such other method of payment as instructed by the United States or its assignee.

SECTION 7. PRIOR REDEMPTION. The Series 2024 Bonds issued and sold to the United States shall be subject to redemption prior to maturity at the option of the City, in whole or in part, in such order as the City may designate on any date, at the par value thereof and accrued interest to the date fixed for redemption, without a premium.

SECTION 8. PAYING AGENT AND REGISTRATION. The initial Paying Agent for the Series 2024 Bonds shall be the City Treasurer.

SECTION 9. SALE OF BONDS. The Series 2024 Bonds shall be sold to the United States. The City determines that a negotiated sale to the United States is in the best interest of the City because the terms offered by the United States are more favorable than those available from other sources of funding and is the most cost effective means of issuing the Series 2024 Bonds.

SECTION 10. BOND FORM: The Series 2024 Bonds shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, and incorporated herein, with an appropriate series designation and such completions, changes, and additions as may be required by the United States or as recommended by the City's Bond Counsel and approved by the officers of the City signing the Series 2024 Bonds.

SECTION 11. AUTHORIZED OFFICER: The Authorized Officer is hereby designated, for and on behalf of the City, to do all acts and to take all necessary steps required to effectuate the sale, issuance, and delivery of the Series 2024 Bonds to the United States. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Ordinance, the Authorized Officer is authorized within the limitations of this section to determine the specific interest rate or rates to be borne by the Series 2024 Bonds, provided the rate does not exceed the maximum rate allowed by law, the principal amount, interest payment dates, dates of maturities, and amount of maturities, redemption rights, the title of each series of the Series 2024 Bonds, date of issuance, and other terms and conditions relating to the Series 2024 Bonds and the sale thereof provided, however, the last annual principal installment shall not be more than forty (40) years from the date of issuance of the Series 2024 Bonds. The Authorized Officer's approval of the terms shall be evidenced by his or her signature on the document or agreement stating such terms. The Authorized Officer is hereby authorized for and on behalf of the City, without further City Commission approval, to do all acts and take all necessary steps required to effectuate the sale, issuance, and delivery of the Series 2024 Bonds. The Authorized Officer or any one or more of them, are authorized to execute any orders, receipts, agreements, pledge agreements, documents, or certificates necessary to complete the transaction, including, but not limited to, any issuers certificate, any certificates relating to federal or state securities laws, rules or regulations, any applications to the Michigan Department of Treasury, including, but not limited to, an Application for State Treasurer's Approval to Issue Long-Term Securities.

SECTION 12. EXECUTION OF BONDS. The Mayor or the Mayor Pro Tem and the Clerk or the Deputy Clerk of the City are hereby authorized and directed to sign the Series 2024 Bonds, either manually or by facsimile signature, on behalf of the City. Upon execution, the Series 2024 Bonds shall be delivered to the purchaser thereof.

SECTION 13. RIGHTS OF BONDHOLDERS. The Bondholders representing in the aggregate not less than twenty percent (20%) of the entire amount of the Series 2024 Bonds then outstanding may protect and enforce the statutory lien, either at law or in equity, by suit, action, mandamus, or other proceedings, and enforce and compel the performance of all duties of the officials of the City, including the fixing of sufficient rates, the collection of revenues, the proper segregation of revenues and the proper application thereof; provided, however, that such statutory lien shall not be construed to give any Registered Owner of any Bond authority to compel the sale of the System, the revenues of which are pledged thereto.

If there is any default in the payment of the principal of or interest on any of the Series 2024 Bonds, any court having jurisdiction in any proper action may appoint a receiver to administer and operate the System on behalf of the City and under the direction of such court, and by and with the approval of such court, to fix and charge rates and collect revenues sufficient to provide for the payment of any Series 2024 Bonds or other obligations outstanding against the revenues of the System and for the payment of the expenses of operating and maintaining the System and to apply the income and revenues of the System in conformity with Act 94 and this Series 2024 Ordinance.

The owners or Bondholders, from time to time, of the Series 2024 Bonds, shall have all the rights and remedies given by law, and particularly by the Act 94, for the collection and enforcement of the Series 2024 Bonds and the security therefor.

SECTION 14. CONSTRUCTION FUND. The proceeds of the Series 2024 Bonds shall be deposited in the Construction Fund, which is hereby established for the Series 2024 Bonds. There shall further be established a subaccount in the Construction Fund for the proceeds of the Series 2024A Bonds and a separate subaccount for the proceeds of the Series 2024B Bonds. Such moneys shall be used solely for the purpose for which each series of the Series 2024 Bonds were issued. Any unexpected balance in the Construction Fund remaining after completion of the Improvements may be used for such purposes as allowed by law. After completion of the Improvements and disposition of remaining Series 2024 Bond proceeds, if any, pursuant to the provisions of this Section, the Construction Fund shall be closed.

SECTION 15. JUNIOR LIEN BOND AND INTEREST REDEMPTION ACCOUNT. The Junior Lien Bond and Interest Redemption Account shall be established to be used solely for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on the Junior Lien Bonds as they come due. From Revenues remaining in the Receiving Fund, after provision has been made for the requirements of the Operation and Maintenance Fund and the Redemption Account including the Bond Reserve Account, there shall be set aside monthly in the Junior Lien Bond and Interest Redemption Account a sum proportionately sufficient to provide for the payment of the principal of, mandatory redemption requirements, if any, and interest on the Junior Lien Bonds as and when the same become due and payable. If there shall be any deficiency in the amount previously required to be set aside, then the amount of such deficiency shall be added to the next succeeding month's requirements. The monies in the Junior Lien Redemption Account shall be accounted for separately.

No further payments need be made into the Junior Lien Bond and Interest Redemption Account after enough of the Junior Lien Bonds have been retired so that the amount then held in the Junior Lien Bond and Interest Redemption Account (including the Junior Lien Bond Reserve Accounts) is equal to the entire amount of principal and interest which will be payable at the time of maturity of all Outstanding Junior Lien Bonds and the monies so held shall be used solely to pay the principal of and interest on the Junior Lien Bonds as they become due either by maturity or by redemption prior to maturity.

SECTION 16. JUNIOR LIEN BOND RESERVE ACCOUNTS.

(a) There is hereby established a subaccount with respect to the Series 2024A Bonds within the Junior Lien Bond and Interest Redemption Account to be known as the 2024A USA Bonds Reserve Account (the "2024A USA Reserve"). The City shall pay into the 2024A USA Reserve from the revenues of the System after provision has been made for the Operation and Maintenance Fund and the current requirements of the Junior Lien Bond and Interest Redemption Account, an annual sum of not less than $24,300 until there has been accumulated in the 2024A USA Reserve the sum of $243,000 or such other amounts determined by the United States and approved by the Authorized Officer (the "2024A Required Reserve"). Except as hereinafter provided, no further deposits or additions need be made into the 2024A USA Reserve once the 2024A Required Reserve has been deposited therein. The moneys in the 2024A USA Reserve shall be used solely for the payment of the principal of and interest on Series 2024A Bonds as to which there would otherwise be default.

If at any time it shall be necessary to use moneys in the 2024A USA Reserve for payment of principal and/or interest on Series 2024A Bonds, then the moneys so used shall be replaced from the revenues first received thereafter that are not required by this Ordinance to be used for operation and maintenance or for current principal and interest requirements. The 2024A USA Reserve shall be maintained while the Series 2024A Bonds remain outstanding or until they are defeased. The 2024A USA Reserve may be applied to the final payments of principal and interest on the Series 2024A Bonds or to provide funds for their defeasance.

(b) There is hereby established a subaccount with respect to the Series 2024B Bonds within the Redemption Account to be known as the 2024B USA Bonds Reserve Account (the "2024B USA Reserve"). The City shall pay into the 2024B USA Reserve from the revenues of the System after provision has been made for the Operation and Maintenance Fund and the current requirements of the Redemption Account, an annual sum of not less than $37,400 until there has been accumulated in the 2024B USA Reserve the sum of $374,000 or such other amounts determined by the United States and approved by the Authorized Officer (the "2024B Required Reserve"). Except as hereinafter provided, no further deposits or additions need be made into the 2024B USA Reserve once the 2024B Required Reserve has been deposited therein. The moneys in the 2024B USA Reserve shall be used solely for the payment of the principal of and interest on Series 2024B Bonds as to which there would otherwise be default.

If at any time it shall be necessary to use moneys in the 2024B USA Reserve for payment of principal and/or interest on Series 2024B Bonds, then the moneys so used shall be replaced from the revenues first received thereafter that are not required by this Ordinance to be used for operation and maintenance or for current principal and interest requirements. The 2024B USA Reserve shall be maintained while the Series 2024B Bonds remain outstanding or until they are defeased. The 2024B USA Reserve may be applied to the final payments of principal and interest on the Series 2024B Bonds or to provide funds for their defeasance.

SECTION 17. DEPOSITS TO REPLACEMENT AND IMPRVOEMENT FUND.

(a) There is hereby established a subaccount with respect to the Series 2024A Bonds within the Replacement and Improvement Fund to be known as the 2024A USA Bonds Replacement and Improvement Fund (the "2024A USA Replacement and Improvement Account"). The City shall deposit each year into the 2024A USA Replacement and Improvement Account from monies in the Receiving Fund, after meeting the requirements of the subsections set forth above, the sum of $52,667 or such other amounts determined by the United States and approved by the Authorized Officer, until the principal of and interest on the Series 2024A Bonds has been paid in full. Moneys in the 2024A USA Replacement and Improvement Account shall be used by the City for the purpose of acquiring and constructing improvements, additions and extensions and for making repairs and replacements to the sanitary sewer components of the System. Such additional sums may be deposited into the 2024A USA Replacement and Improvement Account as the Commission shall determine to be necessary from time to time for the purposes of the 2024A USA Replacement and Improvement Account.

(b) There is hereby established a subaccount with respect to the Series 2024B Bonds within the Replacement and Improvement Fund to be known as the 2024B USA Bonds Replacement and Improvement Fund (the "2024B USA Replacement and Improvement Account"). The City shall deposit each year into the 2024B USA Replacement and Improvement Account from monies in the Receiving Fund, after meeting the requirements of the subsections set forth above, the sum of $33,333 or such other amounts determined by the United States and approved by the Authorized Officer, until the principal of and interest on the Series 2024B Bonds has been paid in full. Moneys in the 2024B USA Replacement and Improvement Account shall be used by the City for the purpose of acquiring and constructing improvements, additions and extensions and for making repairs and replacements to the water supply components of the System. Such additional sums may be deposited into the 2024B USA Replacement and Improvement Account as the Commission shall determine to be necessary from time to time for the purposes of the 2024B USA Replacement and Improvement Account.

SECTION 18. RATES AND CHARGES. The rates and charges for the services of the System shall be those in effect on the date of adoption of this Series 2024 Ordinance or as may be adopted prior to the issuance of the Series 2024 Bonds. The rates and charges are in amounts that are sufficient to pay the expenses of administration and the costs of operation and maintenance of the System, to provide an amount of revenues adequate for the payment of principal of and interest on the Bonds, reserve, replacement and improvement requirements and to otherwise comply with all requirements and covenant provided herein.

SECTION 19. ADDITIONAL BONDS. Additional Junior Lien Bonds of equal standing with the Series 2024 Bonds may be issued in the discretion of the City.

SECTION 20. DEFEASANCE. Notwithstanding any other provision or this Series 2024 Ordinance or the Ordinance, the Series 2024 Bonds while held by the United States shall not be defeased without written approval of the United States.

SECTION 21. PRIOR ORDINANCE. Except to the extent supplemented or otherwise provided in this Series 2024 Ordinance, the provisions of Ordinance 2020.01/415, as amended by Ordinance 2020.03.416 shall apply to the Series 2024 Bonds.

SECTION 22. ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFERS. Pursuant to the guidelines and requirements of the United States, promulgated through the Rural Development Division of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Series 2024 Bonds proceeds will be released and delivered to the City pursuant to draws against such funds during construction and acquisition of the Improvements. Commencing with the issuance of the Series 2024 Bonds, the Treasurer, or his or her appointee, will inscribe his or her initials on Schedule II attached to the appropriate Series 2024 Bond to acknowledge receipt and acceptance of the amount of the draw. Thereafter the Treasurer will complete and execute an "Estimate of Funds Needed for a Thirty- (30-) Day Period", Form 440-11 or such other form required by the United States (the "Estimate of Funds Needed") periodically requesting additional funds.

In the event the United States provides for an electronic fund transfer of draws, the City shall deliver the executed Estimate of Funds Needed by mail or facsimile transmission to the United States, after which the appropriate funds will be wire transferred to the account of the City.

SECTION 23. APPOINTMENT OF BOND COUNSEL. The firm of Dickinson Wright PLLC is hereby approved as bond counsel to the City.

SECTION 24. LOAN RESOLUTION. The Loan Resolutions required by RUS Bulletin 1780-27, are hereby adopted, with such changes completions an additions as are approved by the Authorized Officer. So long as the United States is the holder of any of the Series 2024 Bonds, the City shall be subject to the Loan Resolutions with respect to such Series 2024 Bonds and shall comply with all provisions thereof.

SECTION 25. PUBLICATION AND RECORDATION. This Series 2024 Ordinance shall be published once in full in a newspaper of general circulation in the City qualified under state law to publish legal notices, and the same shall be recorded in the records of the City and such recording authenticated by the signature of the Clerk.

SECTION 26. ORDINANCE SUBJECT TO MICHIGAN LAW. The provisions of this Series 2024 Ordinance are subject to the laws of the State of Michigan.

SECTION 27. SECTION HEADINGS. The section headings in this Series 2024 Ordinance are furnished for convenience of reference only and shall not be considered to be a part of this Series 2024 Ordinance.

SECTION 28. SEVERABILITY. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Series 2024 Ordinance shall be held invalid, the invalidity of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this Series 2024 Ordinance.

SECTION 29. CONFLICT. Except as provided above, all Ordinances and Resolutions or parts thereof, insofar as the same may be in conflict herewith, are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict; provided, that the foregoing shall not operate to repeal any provision thereof, the repeal of which would impair the obligation on the Bonds or the Series 2024 Bonds.

SECTION 30. EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCE. Pursuant to Section 6 of the Act 94, this Series 2024 Ordinance shall be approved on the date of first reading and this Series 2024 Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.

Moved by: Swem
Seconded by: Money
YEAS: Denison, Weedon, Vigansky, Money, Swem
NAYS: N/A
ABSTAIN: N/A
ABSENT: N/A

ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED.

Sean Denison, Mayor

Kalla Langston, Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Kalla Langston, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the City of Buchanan, Berrien County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of an Ordinance adopted by the City Commission at a regular meeting held on July 8, 2024, and that notice of said meeting was given pursuant to Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended.

Date: July 8th 2024

Kalla Langston, City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
CITY OF BUCHANAN

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM
JUNIOR LIEN REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2024[INSERT SERIES DESIGNATION]
(TAXABLE)

Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Date of Original Issue
_____%	See Schedule I	_____, 2024

Registered Owner: United States of America
Principal Amount: _____ Dollars ($_____)

The City of Buchanan, Berrien County, Michigan (the "Issuer"), acknowledges itself indebted and, for value received, hereby promises to pay to the Registered Owner specified above, or registered assigns, out of the net revenues of the Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System of the Issuer (the "System"), including all appurtenances, additions, extensions, and improvements thereto after provision has been made for reasonable and necessary expenses of operation, maintenance and administration of the System (the "Net Revenues"), the Principal Amount specified above, in the amounts and on the dates as set forth on Schedule I attached hereto, unless prepaid prior thereto as hereinafter provided, together with interest thereon from the dates of receipt of such funds, or such later date to which interest has been paid, at the Interest Rate per annum specified above, first payable on _____ 1, 20__, and semiannually thereafter on the first day of _____ and _____ of each year, except as the provisions hereinafter set forth with respect to redemption of this Bond prior to maturity may become applicable hereto.

Principal of this Bond is payable in lawful money of the United States of America to the United States of America. As long as the United States is the holder of this Bond, such payments shall be made by check, draft, wire transfer, Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD), or such other method of payment as instructed by the United States or its assignee.

This Bond, being one fully registered manuscript bond payable serially as set forth on Schedule I, is issued in accordance with the provisions of Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended and ordinances adopted by the City Commission of the Issuer on January 27, 2020, March 23, 2020, and July __, 2024 (the "Ordinance"), for the purpose of paying the cost of acquiring and constructing improvements to the System identified in the Ordinance. This Bond is a self-liquidating Bond, and is not a general obligation of the Issuer within any applicable constitutional, statutory, or charter limitation, but is payable, both as to principal and interest, solely from the Net Revenues of the System. The principal of and interest on this Bond are secured by a statutory lien on the Net Revenues.

The Issuer hereby covenants and agrees to fix, and maintain at all times while any of the Bonds shall be outstanding, such rates for service furnished by the System as shall be sufficient to provide for payment of the principal of and interest upon all such Bonds as and when the same become due and payable, to maintain a bond and interest redemption account, a bond reserve account and to provide for the payment of expenses of administration and operation and such expenses for maintenance of the System as are necessary to preserve the same in good repair and working order, and to provide for such other expenditures and funds for the System as are required by the Ordinance. The statutory liens securing the Issuer's Senior Lien Bonds (as defined in the Ordinance) are first liens that shall be superior to the lien on the Net Revenues securing this Bond. The Bonds of this series shall have equal standing with the Issuer's Junior Lien Bonds (as defined in the Ordinance) that may be issued pursuant to the Ordinance and additional bonds of superior standing to the bonds of this series may be issued pursuant to the Ordinance. For a complete statement of the revenues from which, and the conditions under which, this Bond is payable, a statement of the conditions under which additional bonds of equal or superior standing may hereafter be issued, and the general covenants and provisions pursuant to which this Bond is issued, reference is made to the Ordinance.

While the Bonds of this series are held by the United States of America they shall not be defeased without the prior written consent of the United States of America. The Bonds shall be subject to redemption prior to maturity, at the option of the Issuer and in whole or in part in such order as the Issuer may designate, on any date, at the par value thereof and accrued interest to the date fixed for redemption, without a premium.

This Bond shall be registered in the name of the United States of America on the registration books kept by the Treasurer of the City, acting as Paying Agent and bond registrar. No transfer shall be valid unless made upon the books of the Paying Agent.

It is hereby certified and recited that all acts, conditions, and things required by law, precedent to and in the issuance of this Bond, exist and have been done and performed in regular and due time and form as required by law and that the total indebtedness of the Issuer including this Bond, does not exceed any applicable charter, constitutional, or statutory limitation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the City of Buchanan, Berrien County, Michigan, by its City Commission, has caused this Bond to be signed, by the manual or facsimile signatures of its Mayor and the Clerk of the City, all as of the Date of Original Issue stated above.

Sean Denison, Mayor

Patricia Patano, Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION AND AUTHENTICATION

This Bond represents the total authorized issue of the City of Buchanan Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System Junior Lien Revenue Bonds, Series 2024[INSERT SERIES DESIGNATION], in the principal amount of $_____, and has been registered in the name of the Registered Owner designated on the face hereof in the bond register maintained for the City of Buchanan.

_____,Treasurer

Date: _____, 2024

As Paying Agent/Bond Registrar/Transfer Agent

TRANSFER

For value received, the undersigned hereby sells, assigns and transfers unto_____

(please print or type social security number or taxpayer identification number and name and address of transferee)

the within bond and all rights thereunder, and does hereby irrevocably constitutes and appoints _____ attorney to transfer the within bond on the books kept for registration thereof, with full power of substitution in the premises.

Dated: _____

Notice: The signature to this assignment must correspond with the name as it appears on the registration books every particular, without alteration or enlargement or any change whatever.

SCHEDULE I
CITY OF BUCHANAN
(Berrien County, Michigan)
$_____
WATER SUPPLY AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM JUNIOR LIEN REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2024 [INSERT SERIES DESIGNATION]
(TAXABLE)

The Bond in the aggregate principal amount of $_____ matures annually on the first day of _____ 1 as follows:

Year	Amout		Year	Amount		Year	Amount

SCHEDULE II
CITY OF BUCHANAN
(BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN)
$_____
WATER SUPPLY AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM JUNIOR LIEN REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2024 [INSERT SERIES DESIGNATION]
(TAXABLE)
REGISTRATION
NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN HEREON EXCEPT BY THE BOND REGISTRAR

Date of Registration	Principal Installment Delivered	Name of Registered Owner	Bond Registrar
		United States of America	
		United States of America	
		United States of America	
		United States of America	
		United States of America	
		United States of America	
		United States of America	
		United States of America	
		United States of America	
		United States of America	
		United States of America	
		United States of America	
		United States of America	
		United States of America	
		United States of America	
		United States of America	
		United States of America	

DEALS ON WHEELS

WE TAKE CARE OF YOUR FINANCING!!

ON THE SPOT APPROVAL

2008 FORD ECONOLINE CARGO
Hard working van for under 10 grand
Only $9,900

2006 CHEVY SILVERADO 3500
Flatbed big truck, little buck
Only $9,900

2017 CHEVY SILVERADO
Just in!!
READY TO GO
Only $11,900

2013 SCION XB WAGON
Super Rare!
Only $12,900

2002 VW BEETLE
Dang it is a sweet beetle with only 42,000 miles
Only $13,900

2019 NISSAN SENTRA SV
Only 49,000 miles
Only $13,900

2017 NISSAN ROGUE SV AWD
Extra clean with a price that's lean
Only $13,900

2018 FORD ECO SPORT TITANIUM AWD
Just in!! Save, Save, Save. All the bells and whistles and jingles
Only $14,900

2014 INFINITY QX60 AWD
Luxury for less
Only $14,900

2014 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE
Drop the top and unwind
Only $14,900

2007 JEEP WRANGLER
It's candy!!
Only $14,900

2014 HONDA ACCORD LXI
Just in!!
Every option with super low miles
Only $14,900

2009 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW LT 4X4
Just in!! Super clean and ready to go
Only $14,900

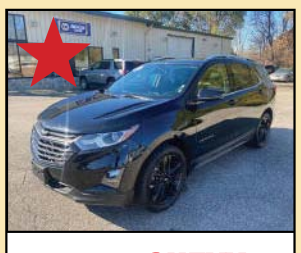
2019 HYUNDAI SONATA GLS
Extra low miles, leather, loaded
Only $17,900

2019 VW JETTA GLS
Just in!!
Showroom new for thousands less
Only $17,900

2019 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW HIGH COUNTRY 4 X 4
Jacked up Duramax with every toy!
Must See!!

2018 JEEP WRANGLER 2 DR 4X4
Just in!!
Like new with lotsa eyeball
Only $21,900

2022 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE CROSS AWD
Just in!! Only 23,000 miles with every option
Only $26,900

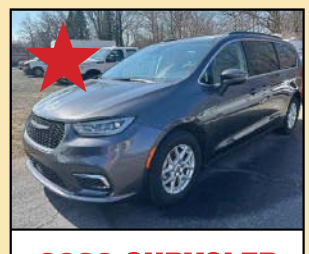


2020 CHEVY EQUINOX LT AWD
Just in!! Off lease, extra low miles, midnight edition, 270 HP 2 litre turbo
Only $26,900

2003 CHEVY SSR
BIG BLOCK,
SUPER RARE
Only 43,000 miles
Only $29,900

2020 CHEVY TAHOE 4 X 4
Just in!!
Save thousands
Only $29,900

2020 FORD RANGER CREW XLT 4 X 4
Mint condition with low miles
Only $29,900



2022 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L
Mint condition, low miles, Save $$$
Only $31,900

2019 CHEVY BOX TRUCK
20ft, auto, a/c, super low miles
Only $37,900

2019 RAM 1500 CREW LIMITED 4 X 4
Every option, over $67,000 new.
Save huge!
Only $37,900

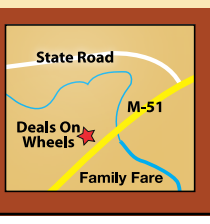
2024 CHEVY SILVERADO 4 X 4
Just in!! Only 3,000 miles….Hard to find
Only $39,900

2020 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW Z-71
Oh So Purdy!
Only $41,900

2020 CHEVY SILVERADO LT CREW 4 X 4
Diesel,
Super low miles
Save thousands!
Only $45,900

2021 GMC SIERRA CEW SLE 4X4
Just in!! Only 9,000 miles. Hard to find Duramax that gets 30mpg!!
Only $49,900

2022 FORD F-350 DUALLY 4 X 4
Just in!!
Like new in perfect condition
Only $55,900

SEE A STAR IT'S A 1 OWNER CAR

269-783-3325 • M-51 DOWAGIAC